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# Johnstown Album

4 pages of paper  
1 page  
book



Johnstown Center House

A visual history of Johnstown Township

VOLUME I



# THE JOHNSTOWN ALBUM COMMITTEE

## REPORTS

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25. Whitewater Commercial & Savings Bank

### Statement of Income and Expenses for the Period July 2 to November 4, 1970\*

#### INCOME

Advertisers . . . . .	\$625.00	
Donations . . . . .	26.25	
June Jaunt . . . . .	77.12	
Irish Sing Donations . . . . .	26.26	
Scotch Jaunt . . . . .	72.91	
Advance Book Sales . . . . .	85.00	
Sales Tax Collected . . . . .	.40	
Total Income . . . . .		912.94

#### EXPENSES

Photography . . . . .	532.78	
Biography Sheets . . . . .	27.08	
Stamps . . . . .	6.00	
Tallman House . . . . .	10.00	
Service Charge on Checking Acc't . . . . .	1.50	
Seller's Permit . . . . .	2.00	
File & Folders . . . . .	25.52	
Total Expenses . . . . .		604.88
Cash on Hand . . . . .		<u>\$308.06</u>

\*The cost of printing 500 books, \$2495.00, is outstanding. All of the books must be sold to cover the printing expense.

Respectfully submitted  
 Mrs. Helen Wehler  
 Mrs. Lilah Zanton  
 Miss Vivian Sturtevant, Treas.



# JOHNSTOWN ALBUM

A Visual History of Johnstown Township, Rock County, Wisconsin

We want to tell you a story. It's a great story. It might even be about someone you know. Most of it will come from the letters, diaries, journals, and memories of the people concerned with it. Sandwiched in between the personal accounts will be facts gleaned from libraries and newspapers; township, county, and state records. The photographs have come from as far away as California and as close as Johnstown itself. Some of the people whose records we searched for only passed through this area. Some of them stayed. They were determined. They were adventurous, and some of them, (thank Heaven) were down right bull-headed, stubborn.

Johnstown began as an agricultural community composed mainly of those whose heritage lies with Scotland, Ireland, and the New England States. It is still agricultural today, 1970. Our population is about 880 people (1960 census figures). We have one church, two schools, a few places of business in the township; and that is all. In these pages you will find the history of what is colloquially termed a "one-horse town (ship)." The early settler placed the word 'esquire' after his name and was proud to be a land owner.

One of Johnstowns' best products has been its sons and daughters. We want to tell you about Mom and Dad and that son or daughter. We want you to see Johnstown as we do, and now it's time to begin the story.

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## 282 – THE JOHNSTOWN CENTER HOUSE

From a painting by Helen ( Mrs. Fred ) Wehler

This building was later known as the Old Pink Hotel. It was a favorite stopping place for teamsters from the Galena lead mine region or farmers hauling wheat. The men pictured are hauling wheat. Lead teamsters used from 3 to eight or more yoke of oxen.

"The Lead Schooners are constantly arriving here from the Mineral region. These singular teams, drawn by six, eight, or more yolk of oxen, excite some curiosity in those who are not used to such sights at the east. They sleep under the canopy of heaven with the camp fires and the primitive meals of a military encampment, pitching tents with the first dusk of evening and rising with the early dawn. These scenes are daily occurring within a few miles of a city with 13,000 inhabitants."

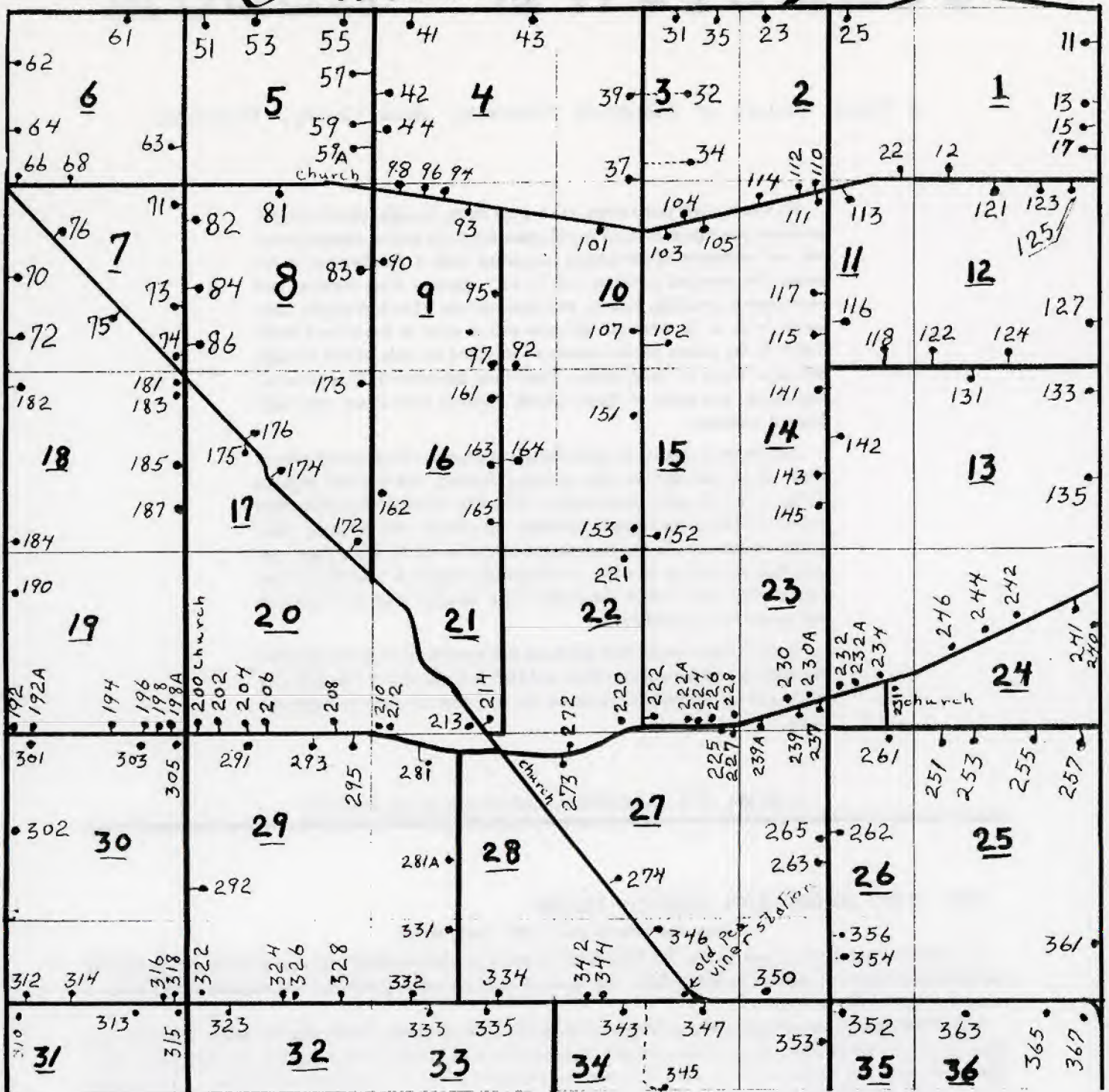
Sept. 25, 1847 Milwaukee Newspaper Id. "Wisconsin Herald"  
Wis. Hist. Coll. p. 325

It was this traffic along what is now County Trunk "A" that caused the first growth of Johnstown Center and Old Johnstown villages.

The number before the title of each picture is the section number (plus a location number within that section) in which the object pictured was or still is located. The total number corresponds to the fire numbers now in use in the township.

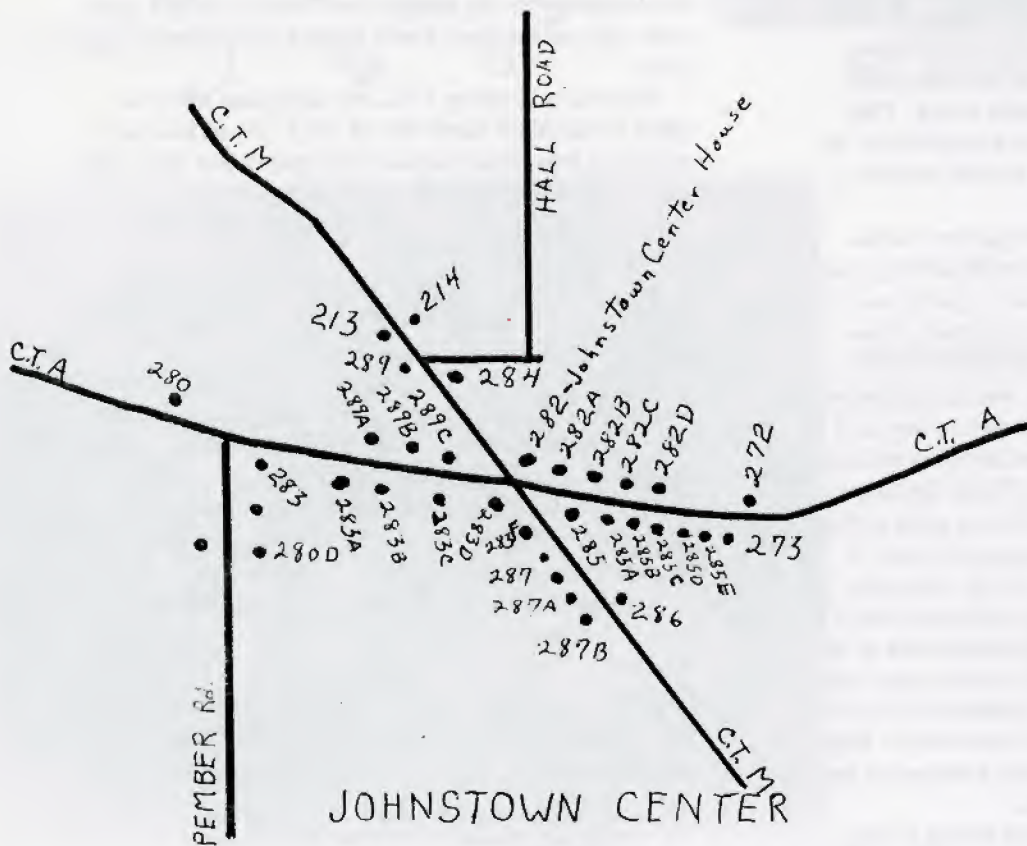
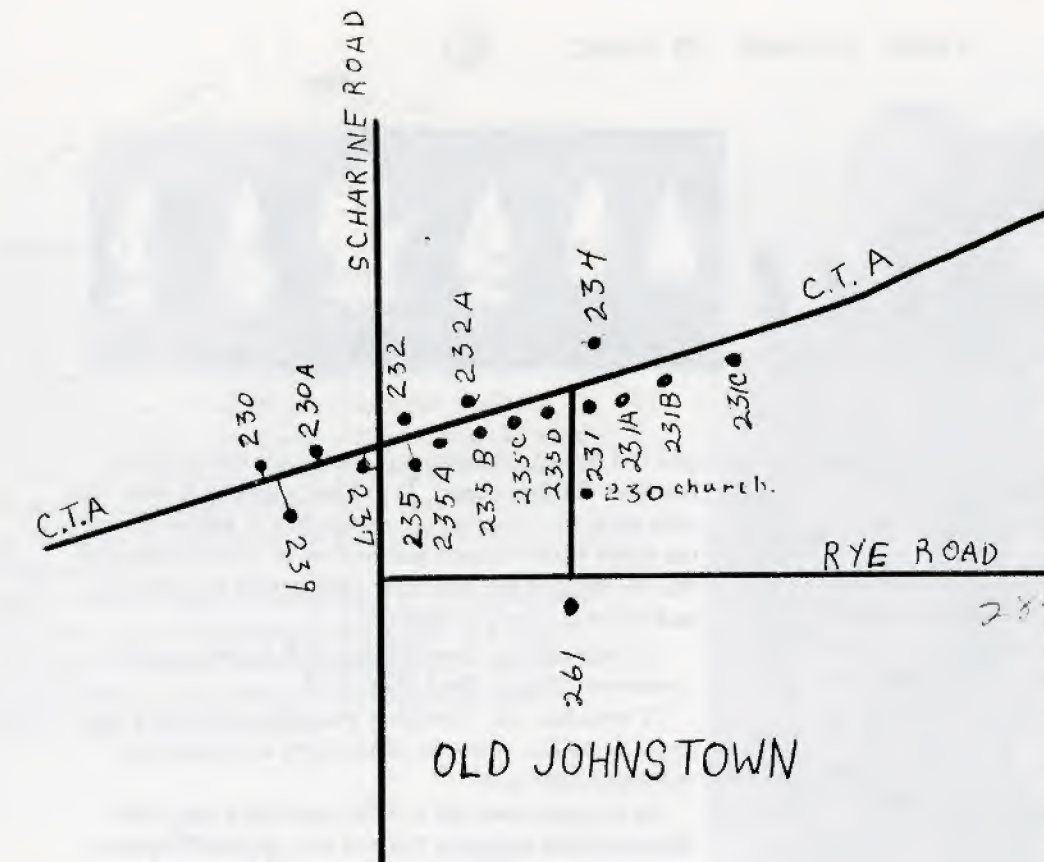


# Johnstown Township



These maps contain the location numbers for the photographs in the book, which correspond to the fire numbers now in use in the Township.

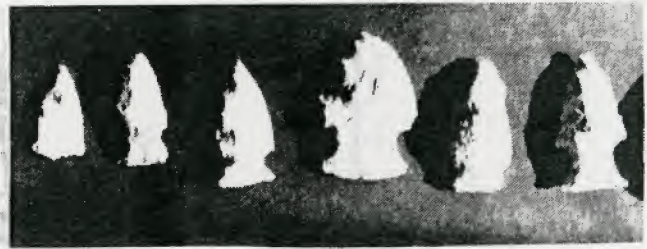
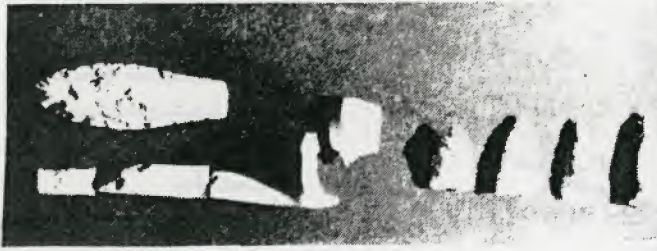




- 231 Old Johnstown School
- 230 Old Johnstown Congregational Church N. of 232 Johnstown Creamery
- 237 Birthplace of Ella Wheeler Wilcox
- 257 F. B. Cook
- 235B Peterson House
- 235C Peterson Blacksmith Shop
- 235D Original Peterson house
- 213 Thompson's Mill
- 189C Barns for the Johnstown Center House
- Bell Blacksmith Shop
- Johnstown Food Center
- 283D C.O.D. Store
- Pratt Home and later store
- 283F Johnson Stage House, just N. of this house, Johny Fellows Store
- 287 Pember-Shadel House
- 286 Johnstown Town Hall
- 282 Johnstown Center House - I. G. Hall Inc.
- 282E Doctor's House - Slowey
- 282G Johnstown Center School
- 272 Former parsonage - Ivan Morse House
- 214 Hall Homestead
- 172 Weber Homestead
- 326 Wehler School
- 17 Uppers Corners School
- 202 Rock Prairie School
- 280 Johnstown Community School
- 153 Joyce Farm
- E. of 220 Longview Stage House
- R.C. Poor Farm and Alms House



## FROM INDIANS TO ISAAC



The first time that Johnstown belonged to anybody else except the Indians was in 1492 when the Queen of Spain claimed this area. No Spaniard, however, ever set foot upon Johnstown lands at that time.

The second time that Johnstown belonged to anybody else except the Indians was June 14, 1671. A man named Daumont De Saint Lusson, who never even saw a smigen of Johnstown, stopped at the Mission of the Jesuit fathers at the village of Ste Mary of the Falls. He placed a cedar pole in the ground, afixed with the arms of France, and also a wooden cross. Raising a sod of earth in his hand, he cried out in unison with all those gathered there, "Vive le Roy. Vive le Roy. Vive le Roy!". 'LeRoy' was - - "THE MOST HIGH, MOST MIGHTY, AND MOST REDOUBTABLE MONARCH LOUIS, THE XIVth OF THE NAME, MOST CHRISTIAN KING OF FRANCE AND NAVARRE," <sup>1</sup>.

After this most momentous moment the governments of the world spent their time arguing over the ownership of the various pieces of property in the new world. They never took a poll of Indian opinion about being French, or Spanish, or English, subjects; which the Indians became up until the year 1812.

In 1812 the coastal states were bellowing over the impressment of American seamen to serve on British ships and the fur traders of Britian and America were arguing over the beaver skins of the Northwest Territory, (of which Johnstown was a part). An uninspired historian called these battles simply, "the War of 1812". The war was uninspiring as far as Johnstown was concerned, for we took no part in it whatsoever and the British, who marched down from Canada and fought for and won the village of Prairie des Chiens (west of us on the Mississippi River which is as close to this war as we got), were ordered by their uninspired king to march out of the town and give it back to the Americans. They should have taken a poll of Indian opinion on this. I'm sure it was beyond the red man's comprehension and as for the British who fought to take the town for their king: their words probably were inspiring and best guessed at than written down. But this is the way things are done and we find Johnstown is now owned by the American government and still ignored by the history book writers.

Some Indians weren't too happy about having a 'long knife' (American) as their Great White Father. ( President of the United States). A war chief named Black Hawk said, "I had not discovered one good trait about the Americans

that had come to the country. They made fair promises but never fulfilled them." <sup>1</sup>. - - "I had appealed in vain, time after time, to our agent, . . . whose duty it was to call upon our Great Father to have justice done to us but instead of this, we are told that the white people want our country, and we must leave it to them. - -" <sup>2</sup>.

American Major General Edmond P. Gaines angrily demanded, "Who is Black Hawk?" <sup>3</sup>

"I am a Sac! My forefather was a Sac! and all the nations call me Sac! Provoke Black Hawk to war and you will know who he is!" <sup>4</sup>

So the Americans did and the usual thing happened. Wisconsin had an Indian War and that old Indian fighter, President Andrew Jackson, nearly had a case of apoplexy. The Indians, with the soldiers marching fast behind them, came right up the Rock River, b-b-but not through Johnstown.

This war occurred in 1832. An uninspired historian called it 'the Black Hawk War of 1832'. No settlers were scalped in Johnstown because there wern't any there. The soldiers of the Black Hawk War went home; East to New York and South to Illinois and Andrew Jackson thought he might get re-elected.

The government finally sent troops to scoop up the remnants of the Indians and dropped them on the West bank of the Mississippi River in 1840.

The government sent the vanquished Black Hawk to prison for a time and then sent him on a tour of the Eastern cities to show him how many braves the white people could call upon if he decided to do any more fighting. Black Hawk was really our first Chamber of Commerce Ambassador. In fact, he drew such huge crowds as to red- den the face of that old Indian fighter, Andrew Jackson, all over again. Jackson was making a tour of the same Eastern cities at the same time. (Inadvertently, the schedules coincided.)

Black Hawk's son went with him. He was called Tommy Hawk by the press and the ladies were absolutely cap-

(1) Saint Lussen's praces-verbal Wis. Hist. Coll. Vol. XI p. 27-28

(1) "Life of Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak or Blackhawk Dictated by himself" Cincinnati 1833 p. 34

(2) Same p. 92

(3) "Life of Black Hawk" Cincinnati, Applegate and Co. 1854 p. 107

(4) Same as No. 1 p. 103



tivated by his physique, manly bearing, and devastatingly handsome face. Southern Wisconsin got a tremendous amount of newspaper coverage in the East.

Now! comes something exciting! At last, Johnstown itself makes an impression on somebody (and he was not a historian.) It was a young adventurous fellow from the East named Isaac Smith who probably had read the newspapers.

Isaac Smith was the type that couldn't set but a minute, had wonderful adventures, made hay while the sun shone, and was always lookin' over the fence for greener grass. He kept bobbing around all -l-l-l over the Southern part of the state and all -l-l-l over Rock County. Busy as he was, Isaac took time out to keep a journal and the only spot he gets estatic about is our own Rock Prairie. He opened his journal and wrote about the area later known as Johnstown Township. He was inspired. He called it . . . . .

### " THE PARADISE OF THE WEST "

"May 18, 1836 -- After a few miles travel, we came on the far-famed Rock Prairie, the paradise of the west; and certainly I never saw it when it looked so fine as at that time. The prairie grass was now green and largely interspersed with flowers. There was not the mark of a plow to be seen, and but very few wagon tracks; not a house or a fence, nor anything to show that civilized man had ever been there. The country was alone in its glorious grandeur. We drove a few miles and encamped where John A. Fletcher of Johnstown, since located his residence." <sup>1</sup>

Isaac made another statement before he moved on west to Iowa that is of interest to Johnstownites.

"In March while I was in the town of Harmony, I took a team and cut some maple brush and bushes and staked out a road from Johnstown to Milton Av. (Janesville) now, and so induced the men to come that way instead of going down by Black Hawk Grove. The town board afterwards adopted this road." <sup>2</sup>

This road now C.T. "A" had an immediate effect on the history of Johnstown. Within a month the first claim was made on the lands of Johnstown.

Isaac had known Henry F. Janes, (who lived in 1837 on the Janesville end of County Trunk "A") when H. Janes and Daniel Smith had both lived on the road between Milwaukee and Chicago previous to the settlement of Janesville and Milton. (Daniel Smith, brother to Isaac, was one of the first settlers of Milton.) Isaac probably liked to cut brush as well as the next man and may have done it to help out Janes, or, he may have had other reasons. History doesn't tell us what passed through Isaac's mind while he labored cutting brush.

This road is now County Trunk "A" from Janesville through Johnstown, towards Milwaukee on the lake. It was

part of a very important route for the shipment of lead "pigs" from the Galena, Ill. lead region (over by the Mississippi River) and the wheat crop of the early settler to the lake transportation available at Milwaukee.

If you can visualize a map of Wisconsin, you can see what Isaac might have been thinking. This important early trail passed from West to East across the southern portion of Wisconsin, passing through Johnstown. Another main trail soon to be named the Big Foot Madison Territorial Road began in Chicago, passed through Big Foot Prairie, rounded the west end of Lake Geneva (then called Big Foot Lake), crossed Johnstown in a N.W. direction and continued on to the Four Lake country (Madison). This road, now County Trunk "M" was the main trail into the interior of the territory of Wisconsin.

These two important early trails cross each other in Section 28 in Johnstown Township. Isaac made his road from Johnstown to Janesville in March of 1837. In April of 1837, the first claim was made on the lands of what was to become Johnstown by a man named --

"The first settlement was made in 1837. The first family was that of Norman Smith." <sup>3</sup>

Who is Norman Smith? Nobody knows. The only facts uncovered are that he came from Ohio and that Charles Stevens, who came to Janesville in this same month, helped to build a log cabin for the Norman Smith family in April of 1837 on Section 28. (Mr. Stevens was one of the first fur traders and merchants in this section of the country.) Nothing has been found that would prove any close family relationship between Norman and Isaac or any of the other Smiths in the area, and there were quite a few Smiths around here. This claim was owned by I.E. Corlis Nov. 16, 1839 according to the first map made of Johnstown in the county clerk's office, in the court house at Janesville.

There is no further information about Norman Smith. He came and he left, as did Isaac Smith. (It's just as well they did for there were Smiths all over early day southern Wisconsin like there are fleas on a hound dawg; some by Janesville, some by Johnstown, and some by Milton; some related and some, not.) If they had all stayed, and all had as many children as Isaac Smith, (9), and all these children had children, we might have found ourselves called Smithstown and by now (1970) found no room left for any of the rest of us.

History is made of just such small quirks of fate. The road that Isaac made brought in Johnstown's early population (and by a narrow squeak we escaped being called Smithstown.) Large hotels were built to take care of the lead teamsters and barns for their oxen, horses and goods. Early settlers found work in the hotels and farmers a road to market. A blacksmith came by and stayed, a shoemaker, a gunsmith, a storekeeper. The American Missionary Society sent out a preacher. Johnstown Township became a favorite stopping place for the teamsters. They greased their wagon wheels here and, therefore, named the growing little collection of homes and businesses "Tar Town". This village is now called Old Johnstown.

Ah! But why are we called Johnstown Township? Keep

1 Journal of Isaac Smith -- May 18, 1836  
History of Rock Co. 1879 p. 341

2 Reminiscences of I.T. Smith  
Histo. of Rock Co. 1908 p. 204

3 Hist. of Rock Co. & S. Mech. Institute. p. 85



reading. That information has got to be in here somewhere.

The second man to arrive was Caleb B. Hill and shortly after came Elisha Newhall and his two sons, Wright and Elbridge G. Newhall. Other early settlers were Noah Newell, John A. Fletcher, Daniel Phelps, Daniel McKillip, John Putnam, John Pickett, and William Virgin.<sup>1</sup> The first frame house was built by Daniel McKillip and with some additions and subtractions through the years is still standing.

Hist. of Rock Co. 1879 p. 513

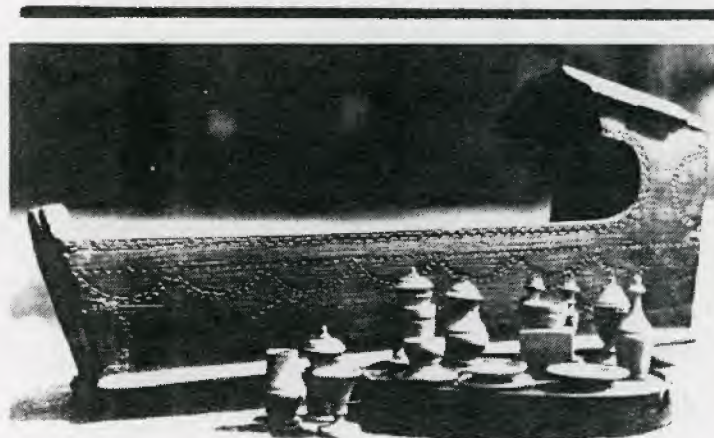


Caleb Hill, the second settler of Johnstown, had a grandfather or father who was a New England sea captain. While at sea he carved the little cradle, 12 inches long, for his daughter and the little dishes. She died before he returned from his voyage and the toys were handed down in the family. Mrs. F.G. Mueller of Evanston, who received them from Mrs. Wallace Wheeler, gave them to the Tallman Restorations of Janesville where they were photographed for this article. The cradle is elaborately carved with various designs and the name of the little girl for whom they were intended, Rebekah N. Hill. The Caleb place is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert DeVitt. (No. 135) The abstract to the property reads - "United States to Caleb D. Hill, Feb. 21, 1839", Part of this parcel of land was conveyed to Wallace Wheeler Oct. 15, 1863. A cupboard was found in the house when Mr. and Mrs. DeVitt moved in. This pine cupboard is believed to be one of the oldest pieces of furniture in the township.



There was a log cabin in the N.E. corner of Section 29, down in the field south of C.T. "A". Close by was an artesian well. Wells were rare on the prairies as they had to be dug by hand. Many of the first early families stayed in this cabin. The McKillips and Shubel Farr families stayed together there for a time. It was sort of like 'open house'. If you needed a place to stay, there it was and you were welcome. 'Twas rather crowded at times. I've heard that at one time there were twelve families there, children, hired men, dogs and all. The available floor space was marked off with chalk lines. Each family had a share.

Some of our first settlers came by way of the lakes. In the area around Racine, in 1835, frost was seen on the ground every month, back from the immediate lake shore and east of the Fox River. Many immigrants turned away. Our first settler, you recall, did not arrive until 1837. Settlement in Wisconsin spread out from the lakes on the east and north boundaries of the state and from the river on the western boundary. Johnstown was difficult to get to in the





days of no roads.

Food supplies came by way of the lakes, too. When navigation closed for the winter, the last barrel of flour on the Chicago market sold for \$28.00. The winter was very hard on new arrivals. Few had money with which to buy provisions to last them through until spring. A good many lived on nothing but potatoes, and some on nothing but hulled oats, boiled. Coming from the East, some were not as skilled with the gun as they would have liked to have been although there was plenty of wild game about. As late as 1881, Charles Fox of Johnstown, was writing in his daily diary "Nov. 27, 1881 - The wolves are killing our sheep." Not all the wild game about was wanted about.

In 1837, there was a financial crash, partly due to speculation in new lands. There was no credit and no money. The "Home Missionary" of July 1838, stated "Nearly half the people are destitute of meat, a few families subsist on potatoes and milk. Many had nothing but potatoes and salt, and many only turnips." <sup>1</sup>

By October things were a little better. "The inhabitants live better this year than last yet few have what they used to call the necessaries of life." <sup>2</sup>

One of the families that came through the lakes was that of Zerah Hull and son, Samuel. Samuel settled in Johnstown.

#### The Hulls Come to Johnstown

When the soldiers of the Black Hawk War went home, they talked and talked, as men will do, about what they had seen and done. Some of these men were from Illinois, serving in the Illinois Militia. Some of these men were from the East, serving in the New York Regulars. Many received land grants from the government for their military services, coming back to Wisconsin as settlers to claim newly opened lands; bringing others with them, relatives, neighbors, and hired help. One of these was Ara Hardy, who settled his family in the township adjoining Johnstown, Lima Township, but whose relative, Samuel Hull, became a resident of Johnstown.

#### ARA HARDY

by Mabel Hull Paul - August 1960

There is a brick house on the east side of Lima Township (sec. 25) that has "1868" cut in stone near the peak of the gable. This house was built by Ara Hardy. Like nearly all the brick houses built after the Civil War, the brick was made in Milwaukee and brought here by ox teams. Ara Hardy was born at Sempronius, Cayuga County, New York, on June 18, 1806. As a small boy he moved with his family to Scott, Cort-

(1) "In Unnamed Wisconsin" p. 219

(2) Ara Hardy was made an Ensign in the 58th Regiment of the New York State Militia of Infantry, July 2, 1828 when he was 22 years old. He was advanced to Captain in the same regiment, April 8, 1830. Ara Hardy went into the army in 1828. His discharge papers have not been found. He may have remained in the army until the Black Hawk War of 1832 or he may have been involved in what was known as the Winnebago War of 1828 in the Galena lead mine region of Illinois and southern Wisconsin, instead of the Black Hawk War. He WAS in the service, for the family tells how Ara remarked about the hiking and the marching and the walking and the marching and the marching. All this does not really matter except that historians like to be accurate (and dull). He came back! That's important.



ARA HARDY

land County, New York. The father had bought a farm and mill there.

Ara Hardy married Electra Hull, the oldest daughter of Zerah and Roxy (Loomis) Hull, on June 18, 1828. They lived at Scott until Ara was twenty-seven, helping his father on the farm and in the mill. During this time, he served with the New York State Militia fighting the Indians when necessary. He was retired a Captain.

He served in the 58th Regiment Infantry during the Indian Wars, and with this New York regiment of the U. S. Army during the Black Hawk War. <sup>1</sup> Because of this duty he received a land patent from the United States Government, and so did his father-in-law, Zerah Hull, and others.

Ara Hardy next moved to Seneca County, Ohio, where he bought a farm in the wilderness and cleared it. After five years, he sold it and returned to Cortland County, N.Y.

In the fall of 1838-39, a small group of men, including these two, (Ara and Zerah) came by boat through the Great Lakes from Buffalo, New York, to Milwaukee. Ara Hardy registered 160 acres near Milwaukee and another claim of 93 acres in what is now Rock and Walworth Counties.

They had walked out from Whitewater from Milwaukee. Others in that party were Prosper Cravath, James and Samuel Hull, A. Kinney and Croyden Clark.

Zerah Hull, being an older man, returned by boat over the Great Lakes before navigation closed for the winter. But Ara Hardy and a few others waited to improve their land and returned to New York on foot, after November 5, 1839, traveling about forty miles a day. It took them about twenty-five days.

In May of 1840, this group with their families, about forty in all, reached Wisconsin via the Great Lakes, buying teams of oxen and wagons and supplies at Milwaukee and then coming out to Whitewater and spreading out to their claims.

Ara Hardy built a crude cabin by driving posts into the ground and covering them with slabs cut from trees with the bark left on, and covering the roof with shakes. There was no floor except the sod. During the summer he built a better home into which the family moved on Christmas Day, 1840.



It was a very happy day with relatives and friends in to see how comfortable they were.

Mr. Hardy, records show, had more than one land patent for services rendered the United States Government. He increased his acreage to 533 or 583 acres, mostly timber. He worked hard to improve the land until he had one of the best farms in Rock County at that time.

In 1847 he went back to Cortland County, New York, where he bought a beautiful team of black horses, their harnesses and a wagon, and drove them back to Wisconsin in mid-winter. This team was his pride and joy. They were the envy of others who soon began to have horses to drive to church and to town instead of the slow-moving oxen.

Ara Hardy died at his farm home on Dec. 6th or 8th, 1888. Mrs. Electa Hull's obituary states she died Nov. 6, 1892. They are buried in East Side Cemetery at Whitewater, Wisconsin



*Hull Home (No. 125)*



*Samuel Hull*

Zerah Hull was born March 1, 1782, son of James Hull, in New Haven, Conn. He married Roxy Loomis, a doctors daughter. She was born Nov. 5, 1793. Zerah died Feb. 2, 1856.

Zerah was a blacksmith and then a farmer. He had also received a land patent from the federal government, for 'value received.' It is assumed that he received this land patent for military services.

Zerah's oldest daughter, Electra Hull, married Ara Hardy. The other children in the family were: Elisha and Elijah, twins - born June 29, 1830: Joseph, James, Samuel - born Feb. 18, 1821 in Cortland County, New York.

Samuel Hull married Mary Jane Hemsely on March 20, 1845. Red-headed Samuel came out to Wisconsin in the group with Ara Hardy and settled in Section 12 in Johnstown after his marriage. A new house was built in 1860 and the old log house was used as a chicken coop.

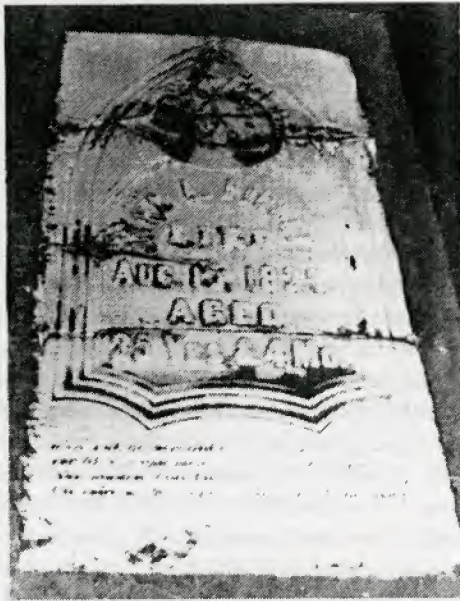


*Mary Jane Hemsley Hull*

Mary Jane Hemsely was 16 when she came through the lakes. Everyone had to take their own food and bedding on the boat. A severe storm had blown the ship back to Buffalo, food supplies had run short, and the rough passage had caused a great deal of seasickness. There was no place to wash clothes aboard ship and consequently they were very tired and dirty when they finally landed at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (another boat had come in at the same time reducing the available accommodations.) Solomon Juneau perceived their plight and offered them a hot supper, hot water to wash in, and the floor of his establishment upon which to spend the night.

John Pickett, of Bradford, Vermont, whose letter you are about to read, came overland, around the lakes, through LaPorte, Ind. LaPorte is mentioned by many of the first settlers of Johnstown in their memoirs. His was the first death in Johnstown.





Wisconsin Territory  
Rock County  
December 14, 1837

Dear Sir probably you have expected to hear from me long before this time but Giles wrote me you was a calculating to come to this country soon Therefore I have delayed writing you till this late hour having now given up all hopes of seeing you here this winter. I shall now begin by saying that myself and family together with John Putnam are in good health I have not seen a sick day since I left Vermont nor have I paid the first sixpence for doctoring as yet. Secondly I have given you a short account of what I have been doing since I left Laporte together with the rest of the people of your acquaintance in this place. Thirdly I will give you my views of this country at large together with the future prospects as I view it. We started from Laporte for this place on the 12th of Sept. and arrived here on the 21st making nine days without any bad luck my first business was cutting hay which would seem rather late for haying but the hay answers a good purpose. Cattle do well on it the grass we cut for hay on the bottoms is of an exelent quality it being what they call blue joint it grows thick and fine and yield in many places from three to four tons to the acre the next business was building a log house which was completed about three weeks since and it is not inferior to any of the houses in this country it is warm and convenient. I have since I got through a building been to Milwaukee for a load of flour which I shipped from Laporte. Flour is worth in Milwaukee \$11.00 per Bbl but mine cost me reckoning the whole expense there a little short of \$7.00 per Bbl the road from here to Milwaukee is very good except about 15 miles which is bad enough I will assure you it being thick timber land and nothing done on it but the trees cut out I was gone seven days and brought 200 lbs. with my two yoke of cattle the distance is about fifty five miles and the price of freight from there here is \$3.00 per hundred pounds. Milwaukee is a fine place for a new one the streets being gravel instead of sand knee deep. I am now

getting out rails to fense the land. I hired C. W. Virgin to brake for me when I was here in July he has broken for me twenty acres and sowed two acres of wheat when I got here which was up and looks fine. In speaking of the country that is Rock River I can say and say it honest that I belive it to be as healthy a country as any of the New England States. The prairies are generally dry and rich the water pure and clean but generally hard to wash in probably on account of lime stone which are plenty and of exelent quality so far as they have been tried. The greatest objection to this country is the scarcity of timber in many places but we have plenty here The country is settled beyond all calculation living here at the present is high but next year we will live as cheap as you can in Vermont but the prospect of getting land at one Dollar and twenty five cents per acre is what brings people into this country and getting it in the midst of a thick settled country too unless the land comes into market soon. I can stand in my door and see thousands of acres of land equally good as the best bottom land on the Connecticut. I shall close this part of my letter by saying that I am perfectly satisfied with this country. All the butter we get we have to pay 37 LH per lb. If I can buy some cows in the Spring I will try to make same to eat for it costs nothing to keep them only cutting the hay and they do well I will assure cattle get fat here. I bought pork here drove in from the south for 11 LH beef for five. Potatoes 50c Corn \$1.25 Wheat \$1.50 per bushel. We expect to have a school here next summer also there is expected to be a seminary in operation at the mouth of the Turtle soon. You can see a little by what I have written what is a doing in this country which short of two years ago was inhabited by nothing but Indians and wild beasts of the forest. I have not seen an Indian since I came to this place. I must close now by requesting you which I believe is the third time to write me as soon as you receive this without fail and much oblige your humble servant.

John A. Pickett

July 9, 1956

Dear Mrs. Zanton,

This letter is from Duncan MacFarlane. And why? Bro. Wm. wrote me you were compiling data on the Early Settlers of Rock Prairie and asked me to send you anything I had in that line.

.....And the earliest settler I read of was John Pickett of Johnstown Ctr. 1837.

Now then, not to gather glory or act in a competitive contest. But instead to set the record straight, and as it should be. I herewith bring up the name of James MacFarlane who came to Rock Prairie in the year 1832 or 33, I think it the former though.

All of this I write is legendary, being handed down from my parents. Although I recall this old pioneer very well. And remember how he looked in life and in death in his coffin as they held me up for my last look. He died in Sept. of 1873. So at that time I was far too young to soak up any adventure stories, being only 3½ years old.

As I recall, John Pickett came in 1837. Uncle Jimmy,





June 1963  
**BROTHERS' AGES TOTAL 241 YEARS**—The three MacFarlane brothers, who held a small reunion last week, represent a total of 241 years. All three were born and raised on Rock Prairie. W. D. MacFarlane, left, now living at 1215 Milwaukee Avenue, is the youngest of the group at 79. Peter J. MacFarlane, center, now a resident of Edgerton, is 85 and Duncan, right, now living in Boston, is 81. A tuneful fiddler, Duncan MacFarlane spent 70 odd years on Rock Prairie and in Delavan before living seven years in South America. The brothers got together at the Donald MacFarlane home, 1404 Center Avenue. —Gazette photo

(my father's full uncle), came in 1832 or 33 and was the only man on Rock Prairie for years.

Finally a North Ireland Scotsman, Andrew MacColloch, settled by a brook south and over the hill from what was later the "Squire" (James Sr.) Lilburn farm. Of course, his home was in dense woods then; not Rock Prairie, but anyway, Jim Mac's first neighbor.

And Jimmy's next neighbor was a Mr. DeGhoula (my, spelling as it sounded to me) settled right where your parents lived and built the beautiful farmstead. That's 80 acres. Don't know if De Ghoula bought from the federal government, or from some Eastern land speculator, who had preceded him. Anyway, the abstract to that parcel will show the record. This land is the 80 acre in S.E. corner of the Robert Morton and Gentle four corners.

Now, if you'd like more details and further proof, and more information regarding early Scotch settlers such as the John MacArthur family who must have come very early also. And also James McNee, a nephew of old Jimmy MacFarlane. All buried in the Johnstown Center Cemetery. Old Jas' Lilburn and wife were early over. They also are buried in the Johnstown Center Cemetery. My parents were comparatively late commers in the early winter of 1857.

Janesville was a boom city and second in size in the state at that time. All government land had been taken years before, and was \$20.00 to \$35.00 per acre. Every farmstead had a large orchard and apples were "King Size" and "Green Flavor" Cider? Oh my! Good! Whiskey was the huge price of 10c a gallon. Little wonder we hear so much about "Them Good Old Days."

On second thought as I am about to fold this up I can write you a cute story I often heard my Bro. Jim relate about David McLay Sr., walking through the night to buy an 80 acre parcel that lay next to him; and had to walk all the way there to the Federal Land Office to buy it ahead of a friend clergyman who had doublecrossed him and had already started for Milwaukee: when a friend of Dave's came across the prairie to tell him he heard the preacher boasting of his plans.

P.S. Anything I write you can use all or none of it. But I'm sure that my old Granduncle was the advance agent and "spearhead" for the Little Scotland that later formed Rock Prairie.

I can write you why James MacFarlane left the land of "song and dancing" and came here to Wisconsin, etc. .

When he left his native Perthshire he had no idea of going away beyond the frontier to live a life of isolation and be a second "Robinson Crusoe." He wasn't made that way. On the contrary, he was the sociable type, never alone, always in a gang, etc.. But the change took place in a New York City Hotel that sent him by the Hudson River and Erie Canal to a new colony of a dozen huts called Milwaukee in the wild woods. And the same thing repeated, sent him to Rock River to talk to Henry James, a squatter there in the Indian Territory. I can give you a long line of the years before the Black Hawk War in 1836 with James at the River, Jim on the Prairie and before the Black Hawk War; McCollough over in the woods, (The Jim Lamb farm, 420 acres.)

I'm sorry to say I don't think you can get a stitch of history about Jim Mac from his grandchildren. Old Jimmy MacFarlane was the father of Jean McLay and Margaret Barlass. Both these daughters were real young when their father died, perhaps 13 and 11.

After Wm. Zuill, (my bro-in-law, buried at the Old Johnstown Cemetery) was lowered into his grave; John McLay asked me to show him his grandfather's grave. He seemed amazed to know (when I told him) his grandfather was buried in Johnstown Center. I also was amazed. That, by itself nearly knocked me downstairs— Evidently they had no way of knowing their Grandfather like we, my brothers and I. We got it from the horses teeth many times per week.

Did you ever hear of the unusual tragedy at the Johnstown Store? David Osbourne Baker killed in the store door by a bolt of lightning? Buried at J. Center Cemetery.

Respy  
 Duncan MacFarlane

# MacFarlane



## Pheasant Farm

U. S. Highway 51, One Half Mile South of  
 JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN 53545

PHEASANTS "5 OR 5,000"



## LETTER OF AUSTIN AND SUSANNAH JOHNSON

Richmond, December the 20, 1855

Dear Sister:

I am away out in Wisconsin, town of Richmond, County of Walworth. Across the road is the town of Johnstown, Rock County, where you must direct your letter. We started from Albany at ten o'clock. We passed Utica just before sundown. Came just at dark to Syracuse. Ate breakfast in Rochester and dined at Buffalo. Got on the boat that afternoon believing that we would start out during the night, but it commenced storming so we waited until morning. We passed several cities, stopped at Detroit and several other cities. We were not far from Mackinaw in the straits between Lake Huron and Lake Michigan when the boat sprung a leak. This happened on Saturday night. We got to Sheboygan Tuesday night just at dark. It was so foggy that the captain could hardly find the dock. We stopped a few minutes and started on in the fog. The whistle blew all the while until we got to Port Washington which was about midnight. We stayed until morning. The storm was raging so hard then we got off. When the boat swung up and down they handed the children and the baggage over the railing. I went where they put out the plank and when it gave the right swing they took hold of my hands and pulled me on the dock. Just after we got off the cables broke and the post of the dock pulled out. When they went out to cast anchor the boat tipped up so that we could see the bottom, and the last we saw of her she was taking it. We hired a wagon to Milwaukee and then took the cars to Whitewater where James lives. Stayed there four weeks and three days, then hired a room for two weeks in Johnstown. The family was sick that lived in our house and one of the boys died. We had been in our house three weeks when I was sick, which was the twenty-fourth of November. I was taken Thursday but was not very sick until Saturday morning about two o'clock and got through about six. I am very smart now. Wednesday I went to the stove twice, on the Thursday I did a little more, Friday I did a considerable amount of work. On Saturday I worked all day. Sarah and I have done all the work except the washing. Austin thinks I will be down next. Maybe I shall, but I do not mean to. We have four boys now and two girls. See what a family! Our Log cabin is quite comfortable. We have a stove just like yours. I like it very much. I have the old carpet down and some curtains around the other bed. The children sleep up stairs. They are all well and eat very heartily. We all eat heartily but it does little good to eat for when we get through we can eat another meal. They call it a Wisconsin appetite. All Eastern people are so, when they first came here for two or three years.

I suppose that pa and ma think that Austins will freeze and starve, but I guess not. We have twenty-five bushels of potatoes for twenty-six cents, one half of a beef for four and one half cents salted down (one half quarter we eat fresh),

twelve pounds of butter. We have one hog fattening. Austin husked corn by the bushel for every eighth bushel. I guess when that is gone we can get some more. The baby was two weeks old yesterday. I have washed once and baked two or three times. I am quite smart. Oh, yes I forgot, we have eleven bushels of wheat which we bought.

I like it very much out here, if I only had my friends out here too. I do not expect to see them all again, perhaps none of them but I think if, I live and we prosper I shall visit my native home again although my parents may have gone to the spirit world. I pray if I never see them again I may live so that I may meet them in Heaven. Oh, dear sister, here is my heart and hand to meet you all in Heaven. Let us seek to lay up our treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust can corrupt. If you have not yet found the pearl of great price won't you try to find it - and Noah too? Perhaps we shall never meet in this world again. Let's try to meet in a better one where it will be all joy and peace - - where we shan't have to part any more.

Give my respects to Mr. Hill's folks and all inquiring friends. We have not had any snow here to speak of. It has been cold, some, but pleasant enough most of the time so that the men could husk corn. Here they go out in the field and husk the corn and then throw it in a wagon. They do not cut it as they do out East. When they get through the cattle are turned into the fields to help themselves.

Amzy has a school about two or three miles from James. James has the same school that he had last winter. They haven't any children and it appears that they aren't likely to have any. They are comfortably situated and have every thing they want except fruit. He gets the "hip" sometimes because he hasn't paid for his place this year and because he didn't pay all that he thought he could last year. If we get our place paid for the house built and furnished clear of debt in four years, it will be doing very well. I wish you were our neighbor. I know you would like to come and see us. I can stand in our back door and look out over our lot of fifty acres. The twenty acre wood lot is three miles off. Our neighbors are as close as your grandfathers old place. One of them is Harvey Lock and his wife from Catskill.

It is a week to-day since I started this letter. I can stand in our front door and view hundreds of acres. Our land is all plow land. We have six cherry trees in our door yard, also a small orchard, some current bushes, and some sage roots. I would like to see you and all my friends. If I could have you all here it would be all I could wish for. Write as soon as you get this and tell me all the news. You can write often because it is the only way we can visit. Kiss Emery for me. Tell him he must learn to ride his pony. Noah is quite lost without it. Adelbert is as fat as a pig. The rest are well. Harrison says that Aunt Louisa must answer his letter. I must close, so good-bye until next time, this from your sister,

Susannah Johnson

Dear Friends:

As Susan has left some space I will write a few lines. I should have written you before but I have been so driven that I could not get time. We are pleasantly situated about a mile from Johnstown village on the largest prairie in Wisconsin.



sin. The prairie is about eight miles wide and about thirty miles long. It is almost a dead level. It is thickly situated. We can see houses a great ways off . . . It has only been settled about twelve years but it has the appearance of an old settled country. There are not stumps and rocks here to make it look rough. Stove wood is worth three dollars a cord here. We have husked about four hundred bushels of corn, and plowed about twenty acres. It is fun to plow here. Crops grow well here with very little work. The weather has been very mild. The ground has frozen so little that I can plow now. I plowed last week. People do not feed their stock yet. I like the country here well. I have no desire to come back again. If I had come here ten years ago I might have been independent by this time. Land was bought then for ten shillings per acre. It sells now for thirty dollars per acre. Land has doubled in three years. I have as nice a lot as any man can boast of. I think I got it very cheaply. I paid 19 dollars per acre. The land adjoining has been sold for 30 dollars per acre since I bought my land. There is a farm across the road from mine that would suit you. There are 80 acres of prairie land and 20 acres of wood land. There is a new house on it . . . It is offered for 27½ dollars per acre. Come and see it. This has been a busy fall for me. Since I left you I have traveled over two thousand miles and I have done a considerable amount of work. I have stood it well and my health is good. I shall have to scratch a year or two pretty sharp, then if God is willing I may come and take tea with you some Afternoon. But - - you must not wait for us - - come out and see the country. I have traveled through the greater part of Illinois and Kansas, but I like this place best of any that I have seen. I must close-good-by-Write as soon as you get this. Direct your letter to Johnstown, Rock Co. Wis.

Respectfully yours - - Austin Johnson

This letter is shared with us by Donald Hunt and his wife, Annabelle (Wade) Hunt, who live inside the east township line on C.T. "A". Austin Johnson is the maternal great grandfather of Donald Hunt. Agnes Johnson Hunt, Donald's mother, was born on the Hunt farm; the home at that time being north of C.T. "A" up the County Line Road in the field.

## MARION SIMMONS NEWTON COMES TO JOHNSTOWN

by Elizabeth R. Newton - 1964

Joseph Loomis Simmons came to Wisconsin as a boy of ten years of age. He was born in Potter County, Pennsylvania, the son of Samuel Simmons and Statira Simmons Simmons, on January 9, 1836, in a cabin in the Allegheny Mts. While I doubt if he ever saw his birthplace, he used to tell that the hills were so steep, and the valleys so narrow, that the top of a tree felled on one hilltop would touch the next. Samuel and Statira with their five children moved to Humphrey, Cataugus County, New York where in August and November, 1836, they purchased 125 acres of land which they owned until February 1846 when he sold the property, receiving

\$97.50 in cash, and the buyer assumed a \$425.00 mortgage on the farm.

With his \$97.50, his wife, and their seven children, he started for Wisconsin by land around the lakes, no doubt with oxen. Many of the immigrants of that period came to Wisconsin by boat from Buffalo to Milwaukee, but one of the last things that my Uncle Bert told me was that his father came by land through Ohio and Indiana. The reason for passing over the deep rich prairie soil was the problem of water. Settlers trying to stay there were dying "like flies" of fever and ague.

Statira was no doubt the motivating influence in this move for three of her sisters were already in Wisconsin, and they were loud in their praise, and had sent many encouraging letters back to those of the family remaining in New York. In 1840, Desdemona Simmons Loomis, her husband, Nathaniel, son of Joseph Simmons Loomis, and daughter, Statira Loomis Barker (Peter) had come to Waukesha County, (rather what is now Waukesha County, but then was Milwaukee), and obtained land at what is now Genesee Depot. In 1842, Betsy Simons Lucas, her husband Thomas and family sent \$200.00 to the Loomis family to purchase land. The Eighty acres in section 21 where the village is now located was purchased for \$300.00 The payment of the other \$100 was deferred for one year. The Lucas family soon came to occupy this land, and in 1844, Ann Simmons Page and her husband, Daniel, followed. The Page family soon went on to near Watertown, but the Lucas family stayed at Genesee Depot until 1855 when they sold out, and went to near Menomonee. While they were at Genesee Depot, their two daughters, Ann and Bertha, taught school.

It is not known how long Samuel and family stayed at Genesee Depot after their arrival, but apparently they were without sufficient funds to buy land there, which by then had more than doubled in price. They went on west where they could find land to be homesteaded. This they found in the East one-half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 36, Twp. 7N., Range 15 East, in the town of Farmington. and what is now Jefferson County. Samuel obtained the patent on this land in 1850 so they must have been there by 1848 at the latest.

This was a stony piece of land as the stone fences still there bear out. Grandfather Joseph has told that he can remember walking from N to S, and E to W across the place without stepping off a stone. Only the north forty was worth clearing, in fact, the south forty is still not improved, but is stony, wooded, marshy land.

None of the original buildings on the farm are now in existence, the present buildings having been built within the last 70 years. Only the three to four feet high stone fences remain as evidence of the work done to clear the land and make a home.

Unfortunately we can learn little about the childhood life of either Joseph or Mary. No one has been interested until too late. A few anecdotes have been passed along, one about Joseph helping to clear land at Janesville, and being offered 40 acres of what is now that city if he would clear 80 acres suitable for planting wheat. It was a poor bargain he thought, and didn't take it. For an 18 year old looking at



80 acres of heavily timbered land I suppose that is understandable to most of us.

Another story had to do with the girls of the family. A widower by the name of Janes with four small children was looking for a wife. Picture, if you can, a widower with four small children in this wilderness, and you may realize how helpless he was. It took the full effort of a complete family to eke out an existence.

Hearing that Sam Simmons had three daughters of marriageable age Mr. Janes set out afoot for Farmington from South of Milton. Arriving at the Simmons cabin about supper time he was invited to eat, and after the meal told Sam of his mission. Informed that this was a matter entirely up to the girls he asked the eldest to go for a walk, and told her why he was there, and straightforward asked her to marry him. She asked for time to think about it, and they returned to the cabin. In about an hour she told him that she would marry him on one condition - - that her younger sister Marion be allowed to accompany her, and that they two were to be the sole judges as to how long she should stay. This was agreed to, (what else could the poor man do), and in two weeks they were married.

In about a month Marion went to her sister Kate's new home and about a year later married the neighbor, Harry Newton. A daughter was born to them, and shortly before or after that, Harry was attracted to the California gold fields. After about five years Marion sent word to Harry by a traveler going that way that he still had a wife, but unless he returned immediately he wouldn't have. I presume that in a case like this, 'immediately', meant several months before he arrived, but fortunately he did return, with enough gold to buy the farm where the Newtons still live, and subsequently two sons were born. One son, Carl, stayed on the home place. Now his son Clarence, Clarence's son Kenneth, and his family are still on this same land.



*Elizabeth, Marion and Kate Simmons.*



*W. H. Newton*



*Marion Simmons Newton seated in front of her log cabin home. (No. 93)*



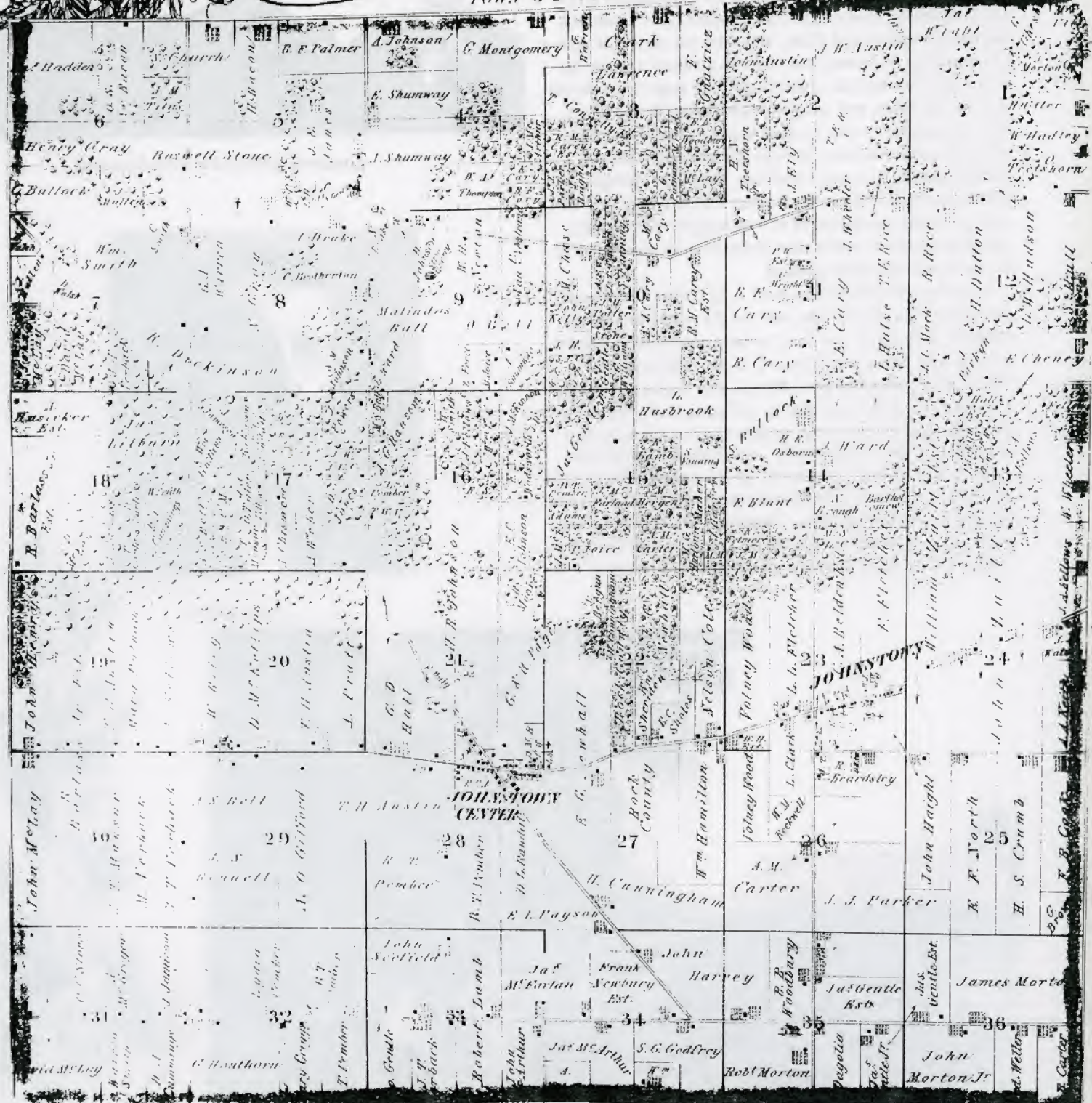
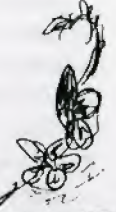




# Johnstown - 1873

From "ATLAS of  
ROCK COUNTY-1873"

TOWN-3 N-14 E.





## GLACIAL ACTIVITY IN JOHNSTOWN

The natural landscape in the Johnstown area is the result of glacial activity.

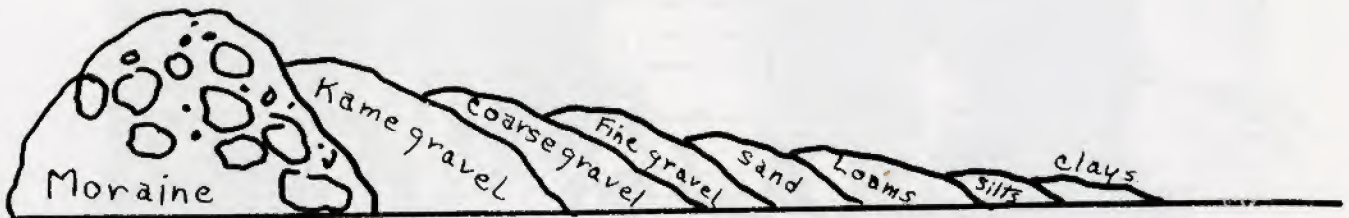
During the glacial history of North America there were five ice advances - known as the Kansan, Nebraskan, Iowan, Illinoian and Wisconsin. There were also five glacial intervals but these are not important in this particular area.

In the Johnstown area the Wisconsin advance made a lasting impression. In this advance there were three stages. The first as seen in this part of the state and the last two in Eastern Wisconsin. The Wisconsin stage as seen in N. America, Europe or Asia is always associated with limestones and sandstones while other rocks play a lesser part.

In this area the ice advanced from a direct north-south position. As it did it picked up and pushed the various materials ahead of it. However, when the season of melting exceeded the season of freezing the ice began to retreat by thawing. It is then, and only then, that this moraine (Johnstown) became permanent. Then we can say that these glacial materials were brought down by the ice but the positions they are in today are a result of the retreat of the ice. Because of this activity the materials are all mixed or better known as a "heterogeneous mass".

The ice which pushed these materials to form the moraine was unusually thick so that where melting began the water in part carried not only materials out of the ice but from the moraine as well. In doing this the coarser ones were deposited first and the finer further from its source.

A cross-section will show the order of deposition.



One must always keep in mind that this is strictly a schematic drawing.

The materials which have been washed out from the ice and the moraine are known as "outwashes". These are generally very flat. However, if a chunk of ice was trapped in the outwash upon melting would leave a slight depression known as a "pit". However, if a chunk of ice was trapped in the moraine upon melting the depression is known as a "kettle". This terminology is used because the shape of so many resemble our family dishes.

W. C. Fisher, Professor Emeritus  
Whitewater State University.



***Helgesen Harvestore, inc.***

ROUTE 2, JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN 53545 • PHONE: 608/752-7491



## STORM OVER THE KETTLE MORaine

As seen from my window

Dull side out are the white oak's leaves;  
Low fly the flicker and jay.  
The palest of winds stirs the tall oat sheaves  
And acres of alsike hay.

On glacial lake the breeze cuts troughs,  
The fisherman reels his line  
And pulls the rope of his outboard taut,  
He must make shore in time.

For a sky that was cobalt and clabbered cream  
Is gray slashed by flashes of light.  
Warm breezes invert to an Arctic stream;  
The teal rise in ragged flight.

The lake leaps up to meet the rain,  
But saplings bend to the ground.  
The deluge hits my window pane  
And blocks out sight leaving sound.

The lightning bolts ring our telephones,  
The needles of rain prick glass,  
The thunder roars in deep bass tones,  
The eves overflowing, splash.

Now snowballs of hail rap the window pane,  
But we can see. The deluge is past  
The hail stones bounce as they strike the lawn.  
The sun reflects on the glass.

Overhead is cobalt and clabbered cream.  
The fisherman casts his fly.  
The wind exhales just a gently breeze.  
The teal drop down from the sky.

-- Sylvia Worthington Liedtke



*Imagine that this picture is curled around you. The view begins at the left with the rolling hills of North Johnstown, pivots around to the east, and then you are looking south upon the prairie of Johnstown. We are standing close to the dividing line between the hills and prairie on a hill in the Johnstown Center Cemetery in front of the Don Morgan Lot.*



A **Range** is a row of townships extending north and south.  
 A **Principal Meridian** is a north and south line, carefully fixed by astronomical measurements, and used as a standard line in locating ranges.

A **Base Line** is an east and west line from which the townships in each range are located. Johnstown is designated by the surveyor as Town 3 North-Range 14 East. A township is measured off into 36 divisions called **Sections**.

Each **Section** is approximately one mile square. Each section is numbered according to a definite system, (illustration 1). Because all the north and south lines converge towards the North Pole, each township is a little smaller in width on its north side than on its south side. For the same reason, each section does not contain exactly one square mile (640 acres).

Illustrations 2 and 3 are supposed to help you in locating a parcel of land by its surveyed description.

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

1. The **TOWNSHIP** is divided into sections that are numbered like this.

N.W. 1/4	N.E. 1/4
S.W. 1/4	S.E. 1/4

2. Each **SECTION** is divided into quarters.

N.W. 1/4 N.W. 1/4	N.E. 1/4 N.W. 1/4	N.W. 1/4 N.E. 1/4	N.E. 1/4 N.E. 1/4
S.W. 1/4 N.W. 1/4	S.E. 1/4 N.W. 1/4	S.W. 1/4 N.E. 1/4	S.E. 1/4 N.E. 1/4
N.W. 1/4 S.W. 1/4	N.E. 1/4 S.W. 1/4	N.W. 1/4 S.E. 1/4	N.E. 1/4 S.E. 1/4
S.W. 1/4 S.W. 1/4	S.E. 1/4 S.W. 1/4	S.W. 1/4 S.E. 1/4	S.E. 1/4 S.W. 1/4

3 Each **QUARTER SECTION** is divided into quarters.



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The hill back of the grain fields in the second frame was used as a camping area by the Indians. The small brushy trees to the right of the cows in the third frame marks the spot where the Morse brick yard kiln stood. Bricks, pressed and baked in the Morse brick yard, built the Tom Corcoran house and many chimneys in Johnstown.



LAND GRANTS - 1839  
TOWN 3 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST

NAME	DESCRIPTION	SECTION	DATE
Asa Bunee	SW 1/4 S 1/2	6	29 May 1839
	SW 1/4 S 1/2	30	"
L. A. Clark	NW 1/4 N 1/2	5	26 Feb. 1839
Jacob Corliss	SE 1/4 S 1/2	20	21 Feb. 1839
J. Corliss	E 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	17	"
	NW 1/4 N 1/2	33	29 May 1839
	E 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	10	21 Feb. 1839
J. E. Corliss	W 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	9	"
	NW 1/4 N 1/2	21	"
	SW 1/4 S 1/2	21	"
	NW 1/4 N 1/2	28	16 Nov. 1838
E. Cramer	NE 1/4 N 1/2	19	21 Feb. 1839
	SE 1/4 S 1/2	19	"
Thomas Dyer & (I. Wadsworth)	W 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	6	"
	S 1/2 NE 1/4 N. 1/2	6	"
J. Fellows	SW 1/4 S 1/2	28	"
W. D. Ferris	E 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	8	30 Nov. 1839
John A. Fletcher	E 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	23	21 Feb. 1839
	E 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	23	"
C. D. Hill	E 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	12	"
	E 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	13	"
	E 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	13	"
	E 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	24	"
L. M. Hudson	W 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	12	19 July 1839
H. Janes	SW 1/4 S 1/2	4	21 Feb. 1839
	W 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	8	"
Hiram Janes	SE 1/4 S 1/2	5	"
	N 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	8	28 June 1839
Wm. Janes	W 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	5	21 Feb. 1839
	E 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	6	"
S. Keech	NE 1/4 NE 1/4 N 1/2	1	31 Aug. 1839
John Marsh	NW 1/4 N 1/2	19	21 Feb. 1839
	SW 1/4 S 1/2	19	"
	NW 1/4 N 1/2	30	"



LAND GRANTS - PAGE 2

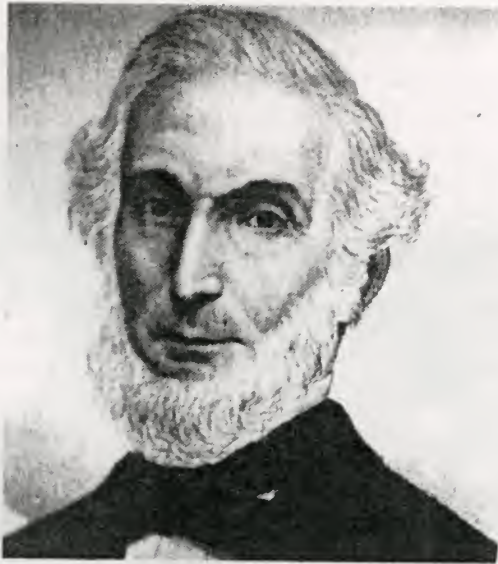
D. McKillips	SW 1/4 S 1/2	3	21 Feb. 1839
	SW 1/4 S 1/2	7	"
	E 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	18	"
	NW 1/4 N 1/2	20	"
	SW 1/4 S 1/2	20	"
Noah Newell	W 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	26	29 May 1839
N. Newell	W 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	21	21 Feb. 1839
	SE 1/4 S 1/2	21	"
Elisha Newhall	S 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	1	"
E. Newhall	NW 1/4 NW 1/4 N 1/2	9	31 May 1839
	W 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	22	21 Feb. 1839
	E 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	27	"
	W 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	27	"
E. G. Newhall	E 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	22	"
	E 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	27	"
	W 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	27	"
Noah Newhall	NW 1/4 N 1/2	22	"
N. Newhall	E 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	22	"
	W 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	22	"
	E 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	27	"
	E 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	27	"
	NE 1/4 N 1/2	28	"
W. Newhall	W 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	22	"
	W 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	27	"
	W 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	27	"
B. F. Palmer	N 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	5	"
J. C. Pick	N 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	6	"
J. B. Pickett	SE 1/4 S 1/2	3	"
	E 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	6	"
	W 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	9	"
	E 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	9	"
	NW 1/4 N 1/2	17	"
	E 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	17	"
	SW 1/4 S 1/2	29	"
	E 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	29	"
	W 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	30	"
	E 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	31	"
John A. Pickett	NE 1/4 N 1/2	29	2 Nov. 1838
	W 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	10	21 Feb. 1839
	W 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	10	"
J. A. Pickett	SE 1/4 S 1/2	29	"
	W 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	17	"
	W 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	17	"



LAND GRANTS - PAGE 3

John Putnam	W 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	29	21 Feb. 1839
J. Putnam	W 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	17	"
J. R. Richards	W 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	13	"
	W 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	13	"
John R. Richards	W 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	24	"
	W 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	24	"
C. A. Sawyer	NW 1/4 NW 1/4 N 1/2	7	29 May 1839
Henry Spencer	W 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	24	21 Feb. 1839
	W 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	24	"
	E 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	24	"
	E 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	24	"
H. G. Spencer	W 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	13	"
	E 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	13	"
P. S. Stearns	E 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	9	"
	SE 1/4 S 1/2	28	"
J. F. Verback	NE 1/4 N 1/2	30	"
	W 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	7	"
	E 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	30	"
Nathaniel Verback	SW 1/4 S 1/2	33	"
	W 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	33	"
N. Verback	E 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	10	"
W. Virgin	NE 1/4 N 1/2	20	"
I. Wadsworth & Thomas Dyer	(See Dyer)		
Martin O. Walker	N 1/2	4	"
	SE 1/4 S 1/2	14	"
	E 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	14	"
	W 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	23	"
	W 1/2 SE 1/4 S 1/2	23	"
	W 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	23	"
	W 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	23	"
M. O. Walker	SE 1/4 S 1/2	1	"
	SE 1/4 S 1/2	4	"
	W 1/2 NE 1/4 N 1/2	26	"
	E 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	26	"
Lavina Warren	E 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	23	"
	E 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	23	"
L. Warren	W 1/2 SW 1/4 S 1/2	14	29 May 1839
Wm. Webb	N 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	2	19 July 1839
E. F. Whiting	E 1/2 NW 1/4 N 1/2	12	11 Sept. 1839





NOAH NEWELL

"Noah Newell, deceased, was the son of Capt. Elisha Newell, and Rebecca Gerry Newell, both of English descent. Capt. Elisha Newell fought in the Revolutionary War. He died in October, 1832, leaving three sons and three daughters. Of these children, the subject of this sketch was the youngest. Noah Newell was born July 6, 1799, at Bradford, Vt., and his early life was spent on a Vermont farm. In Nov. 1828, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Peabody, of Mass. Andrew Peabody was a cousin of George Peabody the philanthropist. After marriage he continued to live on the home farm until 1831, when in company with his brother-in-law, Isaac Corliss, he made an extended prospecting tour through what was then the "far west." With the exception of a passage from Albany to Buffalo on a canal boat, this entire tour was strictly a pedestrian one. From Vermont they went through New York, around the lakes to Detroit -- where at that time there were only about a dozen houses, and scarcely anyone who could speak English -- and from Detroit to Logansport, Ind. The State of Indiana was then pretty thoroughly walked over, after which they returned to Vermont, taking passage on a steamboat from Detroit to Buffalo. With the exceptions mentioned, this entire tour was made on foot, without a guide, and with very small opportunity of obtaining information, at a time when all the country west of New York was almost a wilderness. They followed Indian trails, often meeting whole tribes of savages in all their war-paint. They forded streams and camped out whenever night overtook them, sometimes traveling fifty miles between sunrise and sunset, to get from the cabin of one squatter to that of the next.

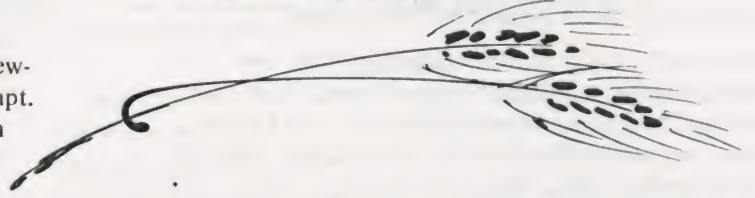
"This western country realized the wildest dreams of these Vermont farmers, and in the spring of 1833 they removed with their families to LaPorte, Ind. Mr. Newell here went into mercantile business, keeping -- according to the then custom -- a miscellaneous assortment of everything that anybody was likely to want, from a pound of nails to a silk gown. In 1836 he went on an inspecting tour through Wisconsin, and eighteen months thereafter removed his family to Rock County, where they remained one year, the

period required by law to secure the land purchased from Government. He bought 1200 acres at \$1.25 per acre. At the close of this year he returned to Indiana, where he remained until 1846, when he removed to his lands on Rock Prairie. Here he engaged in extensive grain and stock farming, at the same time continuing his mercantile business.

He left a widow who survived him but three years, and three daughters. The eldest married Dr. Theodore Treat. She died while on a visit to Tokio, Japan, in 1886. She left two children -- Theodore N. Treat, who is at present a resident of Dakota, and Mrs. Blackledge of California. The two remaining daughters are living, one in Chicago, the wife of Dr. Reeves Jackson, President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in that city; the other, the widow of the late B. G. Webster, is residing in Janesville. She has one son, Frank Newell Webster, who is in business in Janesville.

"Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock Co."

Chicago, Acme Publishing Co. 1889 P. 563

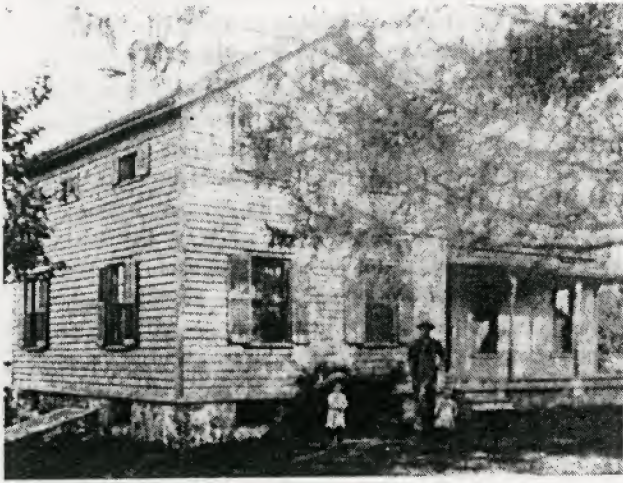


*Mr. & Mrs. Lorenzo McKellips*

The 100 anniversary of the McKellips farm was observed Feb. 28, 1937. Daniel McKellips, a son of David and Resign Davis McKellips of Scotch descent, obtained a government title dated Feb. 28, 1837 for 160 acres. Daniel was a native of Green Mt. Bradford, Vermont and left his family and parents with relatives in Indiana while he came to Wisconsin to establish his claim of 160 acres for himself and 500 acres for his father. He returned to Indiana in the fall of 1837 and brought the rest of the family to Johnstown. Daniel was married to Elymyra Woodard on Jan. 1, 1831. She passed away Oct. 13, 1878. Five children were born, three died and



CHRISTMAS ON GENTLE ACRES FAR CRY FROM  
EARLY DAYS OF CENTURY OLD FARM.



*This home, after comparing it with other available pictures, is believed to be the original McKillips house.*

two survived to marry and have families of their own. Susanna, Philena, and Elizabeth passed away. Those living were Mary Ann, wife of Almond Chesmore, and Lorenzo, married Oct. 14, 1855 to Fannie Teed, daughter of Mr. M. W. Teed and Betsy Rice Teed.

Mr. McKellips built a log house on his claim, the first house built in the town of Johnstown. This was afterwards replaced by a second house built of hewed logs and then this was superceeded by a frame dwelling which was the first frame house built in the township.

His father, David, kept the first inn or tavern on the Milwaukee Road east of Janesville when freighting was done in wagons across the country.

When he came to Rock Prairie, the trip was made by boat to Lake Erie and from there to their new home by wagons. Chicago, through which they passed, was a small cluster of houses around Port Deerborn and the farm to which they came was an unbroken prairie. Janesville, Wis., at that time, consisted of one log house.

Part of the house still in use on the farm was built by Daniel McKellips about 90 years ago from lumber hauled from Milwaukee, Wis., by teams. Daniels son, Lorenzo, was four years old when the family moved to Johnstown and eventually took his father's place as manager of the farm.

Frank McKellips, grandson of the original owner and son of Lorenzo, was the next owner of the farm. He has two sons, Glen of Beloit, Wis. and John, of Waukesha, and a daughter, Mrs. Glen Austin, Beloit. Frank built an addition to the house in 1902 making it into a beautiful two-family home.

The previous information was obtained from an article on Daniel McKellips in "Rock County Album" and Daniel McKellips' obituary and a newspaper article entitled "Farm in Family for 100 Years", (Janesville Daily Gazette, Feb. 27, 1937). At the time the newspaper article was written in 1937, the farm was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Arnold and by Frank McKellips and Mrs. Myra Pratt, a granddaughter of the late Daniel McKellips.



*(No. 332) The original house on the Gentle farm as it appeared 100 years ago.*

The windbreak of spruce guarding Gentle Acres could never themselves boast of so much as a shred of tinsel, but they've seen many a Christmas. When David and Linn Longman open their presents on Christmas morning they'll be reenacting a scene familiar through five generations on this Century Farm.

Gentle Acres is the home of the Leslie Longman family, Rte. 1, Janesville, 7½ miles east on Ruger Road, and the name itself recalls a history of family life extending back more than 100 years. Though settled as early as 1839, ownership in the present family began with James Gentle Sr. and wife, June 17, 1851. Succession in following generations passed to George Robert Gentle and Nancy Gentle in 1872, to a daughter Myrtle Larson in 1934 and most lately in 1952 to Leslie and Buelah Larson Longman. George or Geor-die with a rolled Scotch R and always "Grandpa Gentle" to all Rock Prairie youngsters of a generation ago was a familiar and beloved traveler between his home on Ruger Ave. and the homestead during a number of years that the farm was rented. When he called out, "Who-o-a, Emma." to his faithful horse a neighbor knew he was to have a delightful guest. George Gentle was an ardent chess player and played frequently with a kinsman and neighbor, George McLay.

Christmas 1955 will be unlike any even in the wildest dreams of those gathered for that first one of 1851. Seven kinds of Christmas cookies, pies, and other foods, have waited weeks in the deep freeze, prepared well ahead of the bustle that ushers in the holidays. The Christmas tree has to bargain for the place of honor with a television console that has undisputed domination of the furniture arrangement through the rest of the year. Electric tree lights are themselves so familiar a sight nowadays that they are becoming "old fashioned": trees with that "modern look" don't have them anymore. The spirit of Christmas never becomes old



fashioned; however, and Christmas will remain a family holiday. Gentle Acres will be visited this year by Mrs. Longman's sister and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bodin, La-Grange, Ill. and daughters Bonny and Kathy.

( This article was prepared by Lilah Zanton and printed in the Janesville Gazette in 1955.)

*Leslie Longman family, Rock Prairie. Left to right - Leslie Longman, and son David holding Century Farm certificate dated August 23, 1955, Mrs. Leslie Longman and daughter Linn.*



*ELISHA NEWHALL was a native of Massachusetts. He came west to New York where he married Esther Richardson of Vermont. About 1830 he moved near to the town of New Durham, LaPorte County, Indiana where he lived until 1837. Then he moved to Rock County, Wisconsin and settled near Johnstown, taking a claim of 160 acres for himself and an equal amount for each of his sons. He died about 1857. His wife died in 1859. There were four children, one of whom was Angelett Newhall.*

#### REMEMBERENCES OF MRS. MINNIE MORSE

The Morse century farm, located just east of Johnstown Center on County Trunk "A", is still in the family. It is now owned by Ivan Morse. They are the fourth and fifth generation to live on the farm. It was rented for several years. Some of the tenants were the George Mawhinney, Fred Millard, and James White families.

The first Morse owner was Hilan Morse, his wife, Angelett Newhall. Most of what I know about it I learned from my father-in-law, Martin Morse. It came into the possession of the Morse family in 1837, but they did not get title to it until 1839. There was no land grant office for this territory until then. When one was established in Milwaukee they went to get their titles, by horse and buggy, on horseback, and many of them on foot.

The Morse farm was purchased from the government and cost them \$1.25 an acre. The Morses came here from a farm that was located between Monroe and Browntown. The family consisted of Hilan Morse and his wife, the former Angelett

Newhall. Their children were Julia, Martin, and Amos. Two brothers of Angelett came also, Wright and Elisha Newhall.

When they came to Johnstown the original farm buildings were on the south side of County Trunk "A", upon the hill. After moving everything else, they went back to get their livestock, it was a two day trip since they brought them on foot. The whole family was needed to drive the stock since there were no fences. They reached Johnstown only to find that a tornado had blown away all their buildings. Even today when working the ground where the buildings stood we find pieces of dishes.

The first thing the family did was to build an enclosure for the cattle so they wouldn't have to be watched all the time. Then they learned that the Johnstown Center parsonage was for sale. It is still the Morse home. The east section was added by the Morses. Hilan Morse was a carpenter. Some of the houses that he built are still being lived in here in Johnstown. The rest of the farm buildings were added over the years.

The Johnstown Center Cemetery is on the Morse farm. It may interest some of you to know that the driveway was originally on the east side. The land was sold by the Morses to someone, ( I don't know whom, since there was no Cemetery Association until 1861 and there are burials much earlier than that. The Morses donated the first five parcels of land. They were purchased piece by piece as it was needed at six different times. With the exception of the last piece, they were purchased for \$1.00 each. This was necessary to make the transactions legal.



There was also a brickyard on the Morse property on the north side of "A" near the east fence line. The old poor farm cemetery lies directly over the fence east of the brickyard. Bits of brick can still be found in this field. The kiln was on the upper part of the hill slope and the bricks were piled downslope to the north.

One house remains in Johnstown Center that was built with the brick made at the Morse brickyard. It is now the red brick home of Thomas Corcoran. At one time there was a blacksmith shop made of the bricks. The land is now occupied by the Johnstown Food Center. A lot of chimneys were made with the Johnstown brick. Both red and cream brick were made.

#### Minnie Morse

The Malvitz family came to America because the oldest son of Minnie Malvitz was due to enter the army. In Germany all boys were required to join the military when they turned 14 years of age. August Malvitz would be 14 in the fall so the family left Germany and came to America in the spring of 1860.

His sister, Johanna Malvitz was nine years old at the time. She married William Froh and they lived in Milton where Minnie Froh Morse was born. Minnie Froh went to school in La Grange at first and then the family came to North Johnstown and she went to what was called the Menzie or John Clark school. Minnie Froh married Pliny Morse



*JULIA MORSE PEMBER, daughter of Hilen and Angelett Newhall Morse had five children in all, Amos Elbridge, Sarah Louisa, Martin Hilen, Willie and Julia Esther. Amos married Clara Godfrey. Sarah Louisa died when 3 months old. Martin Hilen married Mary Jane Hall. Willie died in Infancy. Julia Esther married Walter S. Pember.*



*Top row - Harold, Linus "Bill", sons of (seated at left) Josephine Sheridan Morse and Lynn Morse. Middle top row - Ida Morse, daughter of (seated in middle) Mary Hall and Martin Morse. Top row, third person - George, Donald "Pat", Raymond, Ivan, sons of (seated at right) Pliny and Minnie Froh Morse. Plin and Lynn Morse are sons of Martin.*





*Brick yard, Ivan Morse farm (272). The kiln stood in this depression. The Rock County Poor Farm and Alms House Cemetery is just over the fence in the background. To the left was an area used for stacking bricks.*



#### CRADLE TO COMBINE

The Rock County Farm Bureau historical spotlight is directed to the 200 acre farm No. 274, section 27, Johnstown Township. Harry Cunningham Hugunin, 817 Milwaukee Avenue, Janesville, is the present owner. The farm has been in the family ninety-nine years. Horace Cunningham, Mr. Hugunin's maternal grandfather, bought the farm in 1858. Prior to this the land had been taken up from the government by E. G. Newhall in 1839. With several other closely knit Bradford, Vermont families, the Newhalls had come to the crossroads, now Johnstown Center, and the surrounding area in 1836 and 1837.

Horace Cunningham was born in Oswego County, New York State in 1838. This same year Mr. Newhall was concerned with his "claim" and watched carefully for "Jumpers" and he was ready to carry out "border law" if need be to keep the land. It was with considerable relief that these courageous Vermonters returned from the 1839 land sales in Milwaukee with the comforting knowledge that unscrupulous speculators could not "jump" their "claim". Now they were legal land owners!

This same year, 1838, saw the first Johnstown Center school organized in the yet unformed Township. The new Territorial Big Foot-Madison Road had recently been surveyed past this farm. Ninety-nine years later the school has been consolidated; the Angling Road, now called County Trunk M, has just been resurfaced but the farm remains intact.

The following story of Mr. Cunningham's life was published in the GAZETTE at the time of his death in 1930.

"Mr. Cunningham was born in New York in 1838, one of five children, and was brought to Wisconsin when a child of five or six by his mother. His father had come several months ahead. Following the easiest route of the time, the trip was made by boat through the Erie Canal and Great Lakes to Milwaukee, and then overland. The tiny lake boat, on which cooking was done over a little stove by the various family groups, was nearly swamped in a severe storm encountered

on the way. The family arrived in 1845, three years before Wisconsin became a state, and was taken overland by the father to Fort Atkinson. He had found employment at an old inn on the banks of Rock River on the site of the present city. Arriving there at dusk, a new bridge across the stream had just been finished, and the family was the first to cross it.

In the manner of nearly all pioneer children, Mr. Cunningham's education was limited to a few months during the winter in early schools. At 10 years of age he was employed by a nearby settler for the summer, and was put to work breaking new land with oxen. The farm where he worked is now in the town of Aztalan. There were no farm buildings, and the boy was forced to sleep in a covered wagon.

Pay was three dollars a month and keep, work was from daybreak to dark. According to the story often told by Mr. Cunningham, he had been employed for three dollars, when the boss said, 'you are a good strong boy. I'm going to raise your pay to \$3.50. You will get the 50 cents and the three dollars will go to your father, of course.'

One summer he was employed in "rafting" logs and lumber from Fort Atkinson down the river. The work was hard and often exciting, and especially dangerous when getting the rafts through the raceway besides the dam in Janesville. Here the shores were usually lined with spectators ready to jeer the unfortunate raftsmen who got soaked when the logs dipped below the surface as they went over the dam. Another season he tried work as a handy boy at a Milwaukee hotel, but did not like it. "I liked the country best," he often said, "I wanted to be a farmer." At 15 years of age he had accumulated sufficient money to own a team and wagon, and proudly began to work for himself, soon leaving the neighborhood of Fort Atkinson and coming to Rock Prairie. Here he found land which did not need to be cleared of trees before it would produce, and began farming. When still a young man he became a land-owner near Johnstown, breaking land that had never been ploughed before. From then on until moving to Janesville in 1887, he lived and worked there. Wheat was the "big money" crop of those days, and he followed the example of others, growing the grain and hauling it by team to Milwaukee over the "plank road" where it was shipped by boats. 'We made the trip in two or three days,' he had said in telling the story. 'Sometimes a dozen drivers followed each other. Often they stopped at night, staked out their teams, and slept in their blankets under the wagon. Most often we would stop at inns, the yards of which were a lively and noisy place mornings and evenings. We hauled grain to market many years that way, but the railroads finally put an end to it.'

'Rock Prairie was always productive,' he frequently said. 'The saying used to be: 'Sun can't shine on better land than Rock Prairie.'

When the yield of wheat dropped from successive crops, barley and corn were worked in.'

Harvesting took more men those days. We cut grain with scythes. You would often see a dozen men swinging scythes or cradling after each other around a 40 acre field. After them came the binders, maybe 15 of them in a row, stopping, gathering an armful, and binding it, the inside man having



the short row, but each taking his turn at the long outside row. The boys in those days put on some gruelling contests, swinging a scythe under the hot sun until one or the other wilted. Each section had a champion. Johnstown was a busy place in the fall with the hotels filled with harvest hands. Saturday nights there was always dance music at the hotels.

Rock Prairie was pretty when the grain was all stacked in the early fall. Some of the larger farmers would have 25 cone-shaped stacks by the barn waiting for their turn in threshing. Mr. Cunningham was the thresher for the neighborhood, traveling from farm to farm for almost a generation. In the days before the threshing engine, when horse power was depended upon, his teams and "tumbling rods" were a familiar sight all over Rock Prairie.

"The tumbling rod has gone the way of all that early machinery," he said a short time ago. "Not many people remember it. I used three to five teams for power. They went around and around, the driver reaching them with a long whip from the center. It took much longer to thresh, of course. I was always away from home all fall. One season I threshed into January with my teams. When the threshing engines came I used them for power.

I was present when the first was placed at work in our community. Farmers for miles around had come to see it and it was a great day. Gone were the hard days of cradling grain. But gone also was some of the picturesqueness of harvesting. Men threw their hats in the air.

I saw many changes in the prices of farm products. I delivered wheat for big money in Milwaukee, but I also sold potatoes for 10 cents a bushel at the old Highland House in Janesville. After buying a sack of flour and a sack of prunes there was not much left out of a wagon load of potatoes."

Mr. Cunningham's farm near Johnstown was his great pride. He considered it a model of productivity, and maintained it in the best shape. There was no waste land, and all of it was plowed. At middle life he rented it and moved to Janesville, building his home on Milwaukee Avenue. At that time there were but three or four houses on the street."

Hamlin Garland gives a pictorial description of the tumbling rod, the method of threshing used by Mr. Cunningham until the advent of steam power. Here in part is Garland's narrative:

"In those days the machine was either a 'J.I. Case' or a Buffalo Pitts,' and was moved by five pairs of horses attached to a 'power' staked to the ground, round which they travelled pulling at the ends of long levers or sweeps, and to me the forces seemed tremendous. 'Tumbling rods' with 'knuckle joints' carried the motion to the cylinder, and the driver who stood upon a square platform above the huge, greasy con-wheels (round which the horses moved) was a grand figure in my eyes.

To stand on that small platform all through the long hours of a cold November day, when the cutting wind roared, sweeping the dust and leaves along the road, was work.

It was necessary that the 'driver' should be a man of judgement, for the horses had to be kept at just the right speed, and to do this he must gauge the motion of the cylinder by the pitch of its deep bass song.

The three men in command of the machine, were set apart as 'the threshers' that is, one of them "fed" the grain into the howling cylinder while the other, oilcan in hand, watched the sieves, felt of the pinions and so kept the machine in good order. The feeder's position was the high place to which all boys aspired. He caught each bundle in the crook of his arm and spread it out into a broad, smooth band of yellow straw on which the whirling teeth caught and tore with monstrous fury.

It was all poetry for us and we wished every day were threshing day. The wind blew cold, the clouds went flying across the bright blue sky, and the straw glistened in the sun. With jarring snarl the circling zone of cogs dipped into the sturdy greasy wheels, and the singletrees and pulley-chains chirped clear and sweet as crickets. The dust flew, the whip cracked, and the men working swiftly to get the sheaves to the feeder or to take the straw away from the tailend of the machine, were like warriors, urged to desperate action by battle cries. The stackers wallowing to their waists in the fluffy straw-pile seemed gnomes acting for our amusement.

The straw-pile! What delight we had in that! What joy it was to go up to the top where the men were stationed, one behind the other, and to have them toss huge forkfuls of the light fragrant stalks upon us, laughing to see us emerge from our golden cover.

The driver swung his lash and yelled at the straining horses, the sleepy growl of the cylinder rose to a howl and the wheat came pulsing out at the spout in such a stream that the carriers were forced to trot on their path to and from the granery in order to keep the grain from piling up around the measurer. There was a kind of splendid rivalry in this back-breaking toil - - for each weighed ninety pounds."

Mr. Cunningham missed the earliest method of threshing. After the pioneer had cradled the bountiful wheat crop, a space was prepared by sprinkling down a plot of ground and patting down the earth to make it compact. Unbound sheaves with heads uppermost were placed in a large circle. One man took his place and drove as many oxen as he could handle around and around keeping the animal moving constantly. The animals trod out the wheat. The fall winds blew out the chaff. The finished product, "daily bread", was muddy in appearance from the ground dirt. When we smugly bow our heads to complacently give thanks for our "bleached" and "enriched" daily bread an additional grateful expression of those who ate literally of Mother Earth in their bread-stuffs might not be out of order.

Cradle, tumbling rod, steam engine have been replaced by the combine. The combine has eliminated "changing help". It is mechanism personified. We know full well it too will be replaced by something better. Such is progress.

Mr. Cunningham's grandson, Harry Cunningham Hugunin, rented the family farm from his grandfather in 1917. He came to the Johnstown farm with his bride, the former Ora Paul. Both were from LaPrairie Township. Mr. Hugunin's paternal grandfather had also been a Johnstown pioneer. He had located on farm No. 239A, Section 23 on County Trunk A. It was quite natural that the Hugunin son Frank C. should marry neighbor Horace and Louise Briggs Cunningham's daughter, their only child, Lilly May Cunningham. Beside

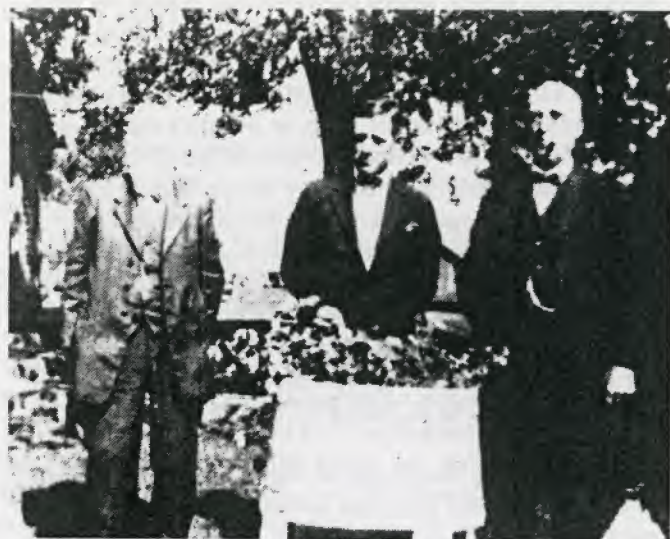


Harry C. there were two other grandsons: Frank B., deceased and John H. Hugunin, Route 3, Janesville.

For twenty-eight years the Harry Hugunins actively participated in the community's organizations and social life. They have been and continue to be especially interested in the 4-H youth. The young women of the neighborhood looked up to Mrs. Hugunin as their ideal in the art of homemaking and as the gracious hostess. Mr. Hugunin capably served his Township as clerk for many years. Today rarely a Rock Prairie party, shower, anniversary or wedding is held that the Hugunins are not included on the special guest list.

Like the Cunninghams, the Hugunins lived on the farm twenty-eight years; like the Cunninghams they, too, retired from farming to 817 Milwaukee Avenue, Janesville. Mr. Hugunin is bailiff for the Circuit Court and Mrs. Hugunin continues to be the charming hostess in their beautiful and spacious home.

Currently their farm is rented to Mrs. Clifford Metcalf and her sons. Mr. Metcalf died this past spring from a heart ailment. Four year old Mark helps by being "a good boy"; perpetual motion Terry, 12, is the legs for the family; ener-



Left to right - Horace Cunningham, Harry Hugunin, and brother, Guy Hugunin. Picture taken in 1925

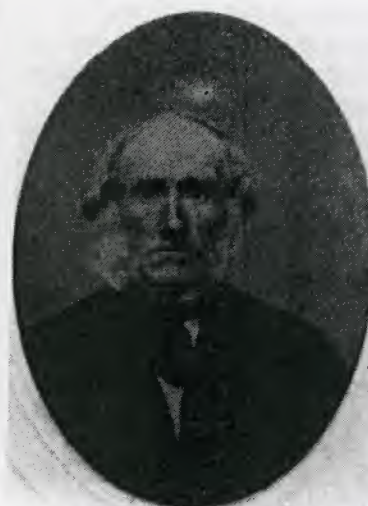


Jack Metcalf, Harry Hugunin, Tom Metcalf, and Terry Metcalf.

getic Tom, 16, gives his full time to the farm and industrious Jack, the oldest, 18, helps out with the major farm operations between his work hours on a full time outside job.

As through a muted multicolored morning mist the spotlight illuminates a dream-like flash back. The sagacious Yankee "driver" standing squarely, high on his platform, gazing fondly over Rock Prairie is proudly reining the five span team. Punctuating each "tumbling rod" beat to the hungry cylinder these words of wisdom might be heard by Ethel Metcalf's four sons, "Hard work! Common sense! Thrift! These worked for me. Worked for my grandson, Harry, too. Reckon sweat, thinkin' cap, and savin' won't hurt nobody none". Slower and slower the teams trod. The tumble rods are stilled and from the platform comes the voice clearly of this grand old pioneer, "Go, Young-uns, gather the harvest with that there new fangled what-cha-ma call it. It's been quite a spell from the cradle to combine - - - or has it?"

Compiled by Lilah Zanton



John Morton



Jane Barclay Morton

Let's begin the Morton story with John and Jane Barclay Morton who left their native Scotland and journeyed to America in 1855. They were the parents of six children. John was the eldest and died in Johnstown Sept. 1876. James was born in Fifeshire, Scotland on Jan. 1, 1833 and became the owner of what is now a century farm in Johnstown. Jane married David Carter of Johnstown. Robert also became the originator of a century farm in Johnstown. Alexander died in La Prairie Township in April of 1879. The last child was Margaret. The Morton family can credit to itself the establishment of two century farms.

James the second son in order of birth, left Scotland on board the vessel "Middlesex" on May 11, 1854 and after sailing five weeks dropped anchor in New York on the 16th of July. James went on to Buffalo seeking employment and



worked for a farmer named Gould for one month. He then left for Rock County and arrived in Janesville on Sept. 1, 1854. James worked as a farm hand for Robert Lamb and received \$100.00 for his work. The next year he worked for John Bennett. In the fall of 1856, he bought a span of work horses and went into partnership with William Duffy operating a threshing machine which they bought and threshed with until spring work began. The two young men rented a farm for the summer, operating it on shares. The next winter they threshed grain again and so they worked for several years together. During 1860, he formed a partnership with one of his brothers and they worked 160 acres that summer, bought the Belle farm of 80 acres, and rented another 80 acres just north of the Belle farm, owned by William Galbraith, working this on shares.

When the Civil War broke out, James became a member of Company I, 44th Wisconsin Infantry. He was mustered out of the service Aug. 28, 1865 and returned home to farm with his brother again.

The brothers dissolved the partnership in 1868; James kept 80 acres which is a portion of the present farm. He bought another 160 acres in 1869, adjoining his original purchase, from William Galbraith, paying \$45.00 per acre and bought another 38 acres of timber lands. A large barn and grainery were built and the farm was stocked with the best grades of livestock, cattle, horses, and hogs.

James Morton married Miss Janet Ann McFarlane on April 9, 1869. Janet was a native of Perthshire, Scotland and a daughter of John and Lillias (McQueen) McFarlane. John and Lillias had a family of nine children of whom Mrs. Janet Morton was the youngest. There was Duncan, George, Isabella, Margaret, James, three who died as infants, and Janet, who married James Morton.

James and Janet Morton had four children, John B., born March 1, 1874; Lillie B., born Aug. 18, 1875; James D., born Feb. 18, 1877; and George E., born June 17, 1879. The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Richmond, Walworth Co. James was a member of the church board and a teacher in the Sunday School. He was also a member of the Johnstown Insurance Co.

As we mentioned, James landed in Rock County in Sept. of 1854. Perhaps he wrote a letter home for after an ocean voyage of 37 days, the remainder of the family (John and Jane Barclay Morton and children arrived; landing in New York in June of 1855. John, The father, went to Albany on a steamboat, by railroad to Rochester, by canal to Pifford, and then across country about five miles to the home of a brother-in-law, James Gordon in Peoria. John located his family in Livingston Co, New York and his son Robert, went to work as a farm hand for James Dow. During the winter, Robert attended school in Peoria and the following spring joined the rest of the family who had gone on to Wisconsin.

Robert went to work for William Galbraith until 1859 and then worked for Quartus Torry, then living on what is now a Morton Century farm. Robert married in 1863 and continued to operate the farm of Mr. Torry until that man's death in 1869. In 1870, Robert purchased 160 acres of the farm from the widow for \$8.00. Afterwards he bought another 80 acres from the heirs of the estate. He owned 294 acres in

Sections 35 and 36 and became a breeder of fine Clydesdale horses and graded Angus cattle.

Robert married Isabel Gentle, a daughter of James Gentle. There were five children in the family of James Gentle: James, who died in May of 1888; Agnes, who married Duncan Graham, had four children, and died Oct. 4, 1866; Isabelle, who married Robert Morton and was born in Kingrowshire, Scotland in May of 1845; Ellen, who died in Johnstown in Feb. 1864; and George, who was born in May of 1851 and became the husband of Delilah Scofield, a daughter of John and Clarissa (Pember) Scofield.

Robert and Isabel had five children: John, born May 15, 1865; James, born June 15, 1868; Jane Isabella, born Nov. 29, 1871; Agnes Margaret, born May 3, 1873; and Ella, born Oct. 21, 1878.

Robert and his wife, Isabel, are members of the Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church of Johnstown.

The first son of Robert and Isabel Morton, John, married Rose Walker and bought his Uncle James' farm.

The second son of Robert and Isabel Morton, James, born, June 15, 1870, attended the Janesville Business College and then also went into farming. He farmed 400 acres in Johnstown, raising grain and high grade farm stock. James married Pearle Smith on Dec. 2, 1902, a daughter of John Smith of Bradford Township. Mrs. Morton was one of Rock County's school teachers.



*Robert Morton*



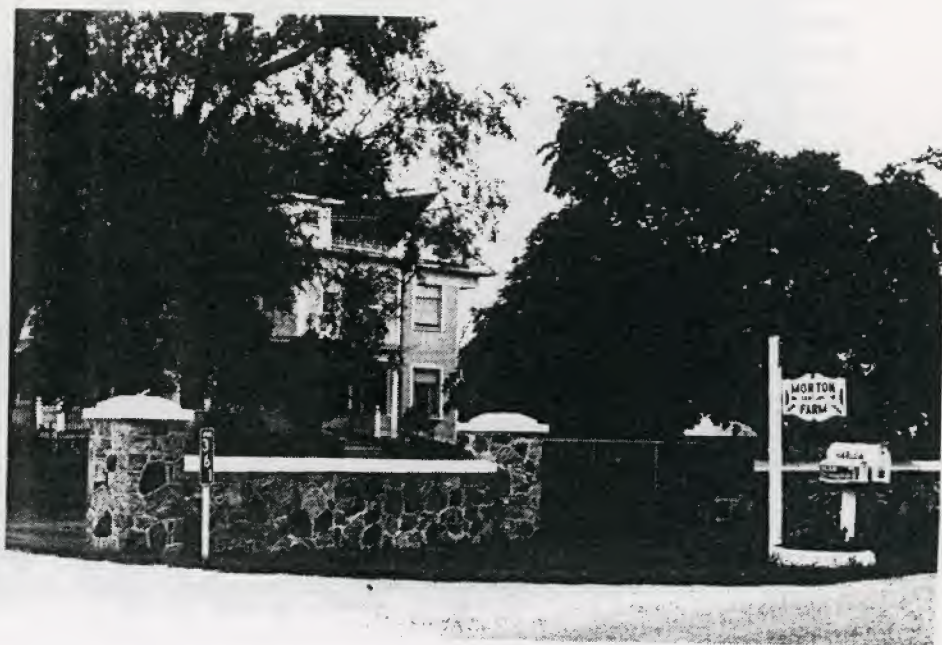
*Isabelle Gentle Morton*





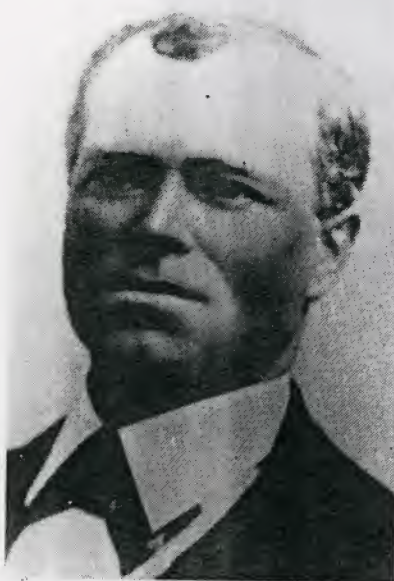


*Robert Morton Homestead, presently owned by Helen Scott Carlson. Edward Henry, Sue Henry, and Christina Carlson, daughter of Helen Scott Carlson, granddaughter of Ella Morton (Mrs. Walter Scott).*



*James Morton Homestead, owned by the heirs of John Morton.*

## MANSUR



# 367  
John T. Mansur



# 1111  
Jane Mansur





The Mansur farm claims the distinction of being a Century Farm. John T. Mansur, born in Waldo Co., Maine, April 5, 1837, son of James and Sarah Mansur, came to Rock County in 1852. He bought 150 acres in 1869. This original plot is still in the family. John married Jane Addie, born March 11, 1841, a daughter of John and Margaret Addie, on Nov. 26, 1853. They had two children: Harriet M. born Oct. 30, 1865, and James E., born Nov. 14, 1870. John was a Justice of the Peace in Johnstown Township.

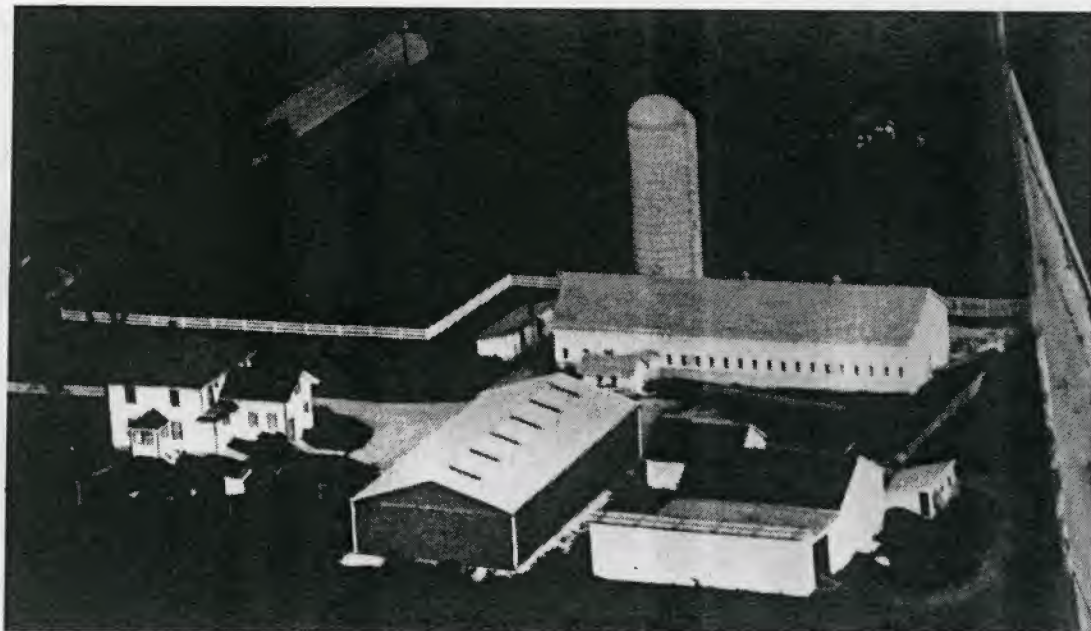
The farm then passed into the hands of James Edward Mansur, who married Latticia Mawhinney, a native of Ireland. They had three children: John, Mary, and Ross, the next owner of the farm.

John married Margaret Jones. They had two children: Marion, now Mrs. Ted Rye, and Arthur, who passed away as a young lad. Ross married Ruth Holliday and has two children: Catherine and Robert. Catherine married Lloyd Schoeder, has two children, Linda and Kristine. Robert married Jean Addie and has six children: Brian, Lea Jean, James, Cheryl, David, and Jay.



Mr. and Mrs. James Edward Mansur

#369



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## WEBER

### ANDREW WEBER —

Andrew Weber was a native of Germany, born March 4, 1818. He sailed for New York when he was 34 years old. The voyage took thirteen weeks, from Feb. 22, 1852 to June 11. He came West at once and worked in a brickyard in Milwaukee for two months. The next two months he worked for the North-Western Railroad Co. and on Dec. 26, 1852 he came to Johnstown and worked for Calvin Cary as a farm laborer. He remained with Mr. Cary for three years and then worked for Mr. Bingham, a farmer in Harmony Township. Andrew married Mary Kuispel, sister to Caroline Kuispel Wehler and daughter of George and Mary (Shelder) Kuispel. There were twelve children: Ernest, April 11, 1857; Mary, March 5, 1859, wife of Frank Urban; George, Jan. 12, 1861, died in childhood; Edward, Nov. 16, 1862, married Bertha Schentzow and operates the home farm; Julius, July 19, 1864; Powell, twin to Julius, died when nine months old; Frank, March 20, 1866; Caroline, Jan. 26, 1868; John, Sept. 23, 1869; Emma, Jan. 23, 1872; Charles, Jan. 23, 1875; and Clarence, May 7, 1878.

In 1867, Andrew Weber bought his first 50 acres and lived there six years before becoming the owner of the present farm. He held the office of Road Supervisor for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Weber are members of the German Lutheran Church.

Webers still live upon the Weber Farms.



*Darrel Weber and wife, Patsy Ann Kaltenbach Weber*



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# WISCONSIN STAGE LINES.



Leaves the General Stage Office, No. 13, Wisconsin street for Galena, via Prairieville, Delafield, Summit, Concord, Aztalan, Lake Mills, Cottage Grove, Madison, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, and Platteville to Galena.

With a branch running from Watertown, Beaver Dam, Fox Lake, Fond du Lac, to Green Bay.

Leaves the same office for Galena, via New Berlin, Mukwanago, East Troy, Troy, Johnstown, Janesville, Monroe, Wiota, Shullsburgh, and White Oak Springs to Galena.

With a branch running from Janesville, via Union to Madison, in due connection with the Galena line.

Also, a branch running from Janesville via Detroit, Roscoe, and Rockford to Dixon; connecting with the Chicago, and Galena Lines, at Rockford and Dixon.

Leaves Racine every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, for Janesville; Also, leaves Southport for Madison and Galena same days.

Leaves the same office for Chicago, via Oak Creek, Racine, Southport, Little Fort and Wheeling, to Chicago—connecting at Chicago, with the St. Louis and Michigan Stages. Leaves the same office for Sheboygan, via Mequon, Hamburg, Saukville, Port Washington, and Sheboygan Falls to Sheboygan.

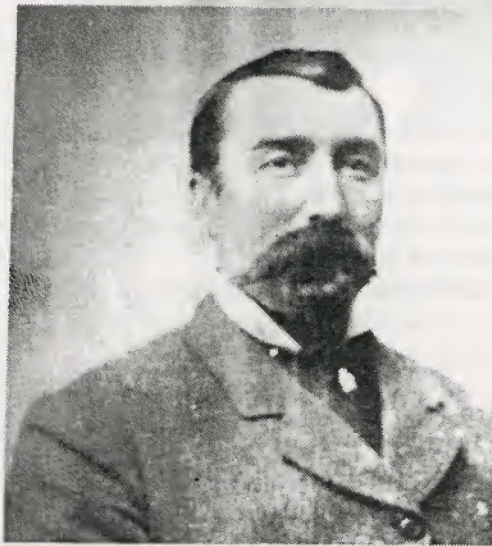
JOHN FRINK & Co. Proprietors.

Milwaukee, 1848.





*Here Comes the Stage!*



George Adelbert Waters, Stage Driver

George Adelbert, as he was always called, drove the stage on the Milwaukee to Madison run, changing horses four times enroute, East Troy, Johnstown, Evansville, Madison. His son, James, was given the chore of cleaning up the stage after each days run. The money shook loose from the passengers and found within the coach, was James's pay.



Hannah Meriah (Burdick) Waters, his wife



James Waters, son



James's wife, Mary Morgan (West) Waters





### THE HEYDAY OF THE STAGE

by Helen Wehler

"Bla - a - at! Bla - a - at!"

"Here comes the stage! I hear the horn! Here comes the stage!"

Around the curve on the road east to Milwaukee came the heavy Concord Coach, a gorgeous conveyance for the traveler. It was painted with ornate scrolls, a picture on the door, and fine lines of striping. The horses' harness clinked with brass cheek pieces and buckles. The squeek and crackling rustle of leather was heard and the clack of ivory rings. Men strolled out upon the porches of the Johnstown Center House and the Johnson House across the street. Another man appeared at the door of the C.O.D. Store and post office to catch the mail bag. Small boys ran from the vicinity of Johny Fellows' store and two ladies appeared carrying elaborately decorated band boxes.

Johnstown was a favorite stopping place for teamsters from the Mississippi River carrying 3 to 5 tons of lead with teams of from 3 to 8 yoke of oxen. One of these teams was on the road right now, but when he saw the stage driver lifting a long pole with a knife tied to the end of it, he quickly moved his team aside and the stage rolled to a stop without an unpleasant incident over who had the only right to use the roads. The stage dropped the mail, swung around in the large open space in front of the C.O.D. Store, and then continued on to the barns where a change of horses was waiting.

Here was an industry that caused villages to come into existence, furnished employment, either directly or indirectly, for hundreds of our ancestors; and was a necessary part of their lives. It took the place of what is today separated into specialized fields of work.

The driver was the bringer of the news from all along his route and also the paper boy. He brought packages and fil-

led orders for the ladies, carried the mail and furnished transportation. The stage hotel was also the tavern, the polling place and town hall, the meeting room of clubs, the dance hall and supper club, the social gathering place of the village, and next in importance to the church.

One of the main reasons for the existence of the villages of Johnstown Center and Old Johnstown was the stage routes and freighting traffic along County Trunk "A". Teamsters were hauling lead and farmers were hauling wheat and other farm produce to the lake ports. County Trunk "M", which crosses "A" in Johnstown Center was an important early trail into the interior of the state of Wisconsin. Some of the first travelers to this region were accustomed to taking what was then known as the 'Big Foot Madison Territorial Road' out of Chicago, Ill.,

The same reasons applied to many of the little villages springing up throughout the new territory of Wisconsin. The village of Milton was also on the crossroads of two main trails, one being C. T. "M". (One of the first settlers in Milton was a brother of Isaac Smith, Daniel Smith). Janesville was on C. T. "A" and provided a place to cross the Rock River.

The first stage in this area was operated by John Inman. John Inman and Wm. Holmes bought some Indian ponies in Milwaukee and rode into Rock County. Here they lost their ponies, walked to what is now Janesville, found their ponies, and rode out. BUT! they liked what they saw and were back with their families by ox team and wagon; arriving at the "Rock" Nov. 18th, 1835 (now Janesville).

This was the first settlement in Rock County and consisted of Thomas, William, and Joshua Holmes: John Inman, George Follner and Milo Jones. A cabin, 16 foot square, was built to spend the winter in. On Dec. 18, Samuel St. John and wife, (the first female and already in that condition that would increase the population) came and moved in with them. On Jan. 15, Dr. James Heath and his



wife also moved into the one small room. By Sept. of 1836, some of the others moved out; but Hiram Brown and his family arrived and occupied the 'spare' space. It was obvious that a hotel or tavern (there wasn't much difference in those days between the two) was required. People needed a way to get into Wisconsin Territory and shelter after they arrived.

In the spring of 1836 Doc Heath built a store and tavern, which was the first, in a town called East Wisconsin City. Doc moved his family there. The cabin was 16 by 16 feet, whiskey was 3 cents, travelers and boarders were piled up for the night on shelves attached to the cabin walls. Holes were augured into the log walls and pegs were driven into them. A rough sawed board was placed upon the pegs. The traveler slept like a supply of the Doctor's store goods on the bare wooden shelf, furnishing his own covering; usually his coat, horse blanket, or buffalo robe. Late comers took the floor. Don't snicker. Making boards without benefit of a saw mill was the worst kind of labor. A log was placed upon high skids. One man stood below, another above, and they pulled a two-handed whip saw the length of the log, making a rough and unevenly thick board.

(We Johnstownites had our own primitive style lodging place, the cabin in Section 29, first chapter. There is no record, however, of anyone paying for their lodging in Johnstown's cabin.)

These early homes were indeed bare of some comforts. Nevertheless, business was so good that Doc took a partner. Doc removed his store goods to another house. During this year Inman began the stage run, (1836). The stage was an open springless lumber wagon and made regular trips between Racine and the Heath tavern during the summer months, hauling people and goods.

Customers were not enough. Stages also needed bridges and good roads. There was a ferry crossing the river at Janesville. Prior to the establishment of the ferry, teams forded the river at low water. When the water was too high, the team had to swim the river and the wagon was settled carefully into two canoes and floated across. Ferrys and bridges were necessary before the regular dependable Concord stage route could be established. A bridge was built at Janesville in 1842 and all at once as if by magic, wheat was waving on the prairie breezes, and corn and beans and gardens, were everywhere. Horses were seen more often, and men came into the towns to trade. Stores popped up among the stumps, missionary preachers came on horseback, schools began, and men hotly argued the politics of the new state in every tavern.

By 1843 there were 36 houses in Janesville and 333 inhabitants of whom 1/3 lived in the two hotels. Johnstown Township, farther to the east and civilization, was still the mecca of the freight haulers and lead teamsters of that day and already between Johnstown and Old Johnstown (Tar Town) there were four stage houses; a fifth was in the plans. There were two doctors (while Janesville had but one) and the accompanying population necessary to work in the stage houses and care for the teams.

Things have a way of changing, however, and soon a

plank road was built between Janesville and Racine, (1848-9) This opened the way for a daily mail service by the federal postal department. The mail was also carried from Milwaukee through Johnstown to Janesville. By the end of 1849 there were nine mail routes crossing Janesville and the departure and arrival of the coaches was the excitement of the day.

"Here comes the stage! I hear the horn! Here comes stage!"

The Janesville Stage House was erected by Charles Stevens in 1838 and this was considered one of the first class public houses west of the lake. I was glad to read in my history book that Janesville's hotel was considered "first class" for stage houses only came in first and second class, that is, with and without bed bugs. We are gratified to know that our ancestors could sleep the night in at least one elegant establishment.

Stage houses appeared all over the southern part of the state caring for travelers on the way north for lumber or new lands, or west; for we were the far west no longer.

One of the first large buildings to go up in Johnstown was the hotel built by Lucius Beldin, "The Beldin House", in Old Johnstown (or Tar Town). By this time there was a great deal of traffic passing through the town along the highways and you might say that part of Johnstown's population was transient, that is, they lived in the hotels.

The Beldin House was about 32 by 48 feet, broadside to the road. The dinning room was about 12 by 24 feet. The large dance floor upstairs was constructed of boards measuring 22 in. in width and running the length of the room. These boards were said to have become so warped, rising an inch higher at their edges than at their centers, that a gentleman found it necessary to waltz his partner up and down the room, for it was impossible to "Strauss" across the boards.

It was in this building that the first town meeting was held, the town being officially organized on April 4th, 1843. (more on this important event later.)



*Lucy  
Beldin  
wife of  
Charles  
Beldin*

*come of this  
hotel & house  
at present 1970  
is a town of  
Calvinism &  
Beldin's P.*

438





Core Beldin Murphy  
wife of  
Philip Murphy

437



Maud Murphy  
daughter of  
Philip & Core

436



**LONGVIEW 220** This property had been owned by Luke Beldin and was built as a hotel with an accompanying barn nearby to house the teams. It then passed into the hands of Wright and E. G. Newhall who sold it to Rock County. It then became the "Rock County Poor Farm and Alms House". An interesting coincidence is that the sellers had also sold their farm in Vermont to be used as a poor house.

The Rock County Poor Farm contained 199 acres. The residents of the home worked the tillable acreage, as each was able, gardened, chopped wood, cooked, etc. The upper floor boasted one of the popular spring floors for dancing. This was constructed in such a way as to hang free of the walls so that the floor bounced, as the dancers did, in time to the music. It was a popular drawing card for taverns of that time, although such floors required some practice to become accustomed to. The dances were continued up-

stairs after it became the poorhouse, the public was invited and everybody had a good time. During the building's hotel days it had a dancing master, (the father of Ella Wheeler Wilcox,) Marcus Wheeler. He played the violin and taught singing.

Lunch was served afterwards from the hotel kitchen before the dancers climbed into their sleighs or wagons for the ride home.

The building beside the main house was erected in 1871 to house the insane. The County paid \$5,000.00 for the farm. Expenses per patient, were estimated at \$1.73 a week in the year 1875, excluding the salary of the superintendent <sup>1</sup>

(1) History Rock Co. 1879 p. 411





(#282)

*The Johnstown  
Center House*

at the Johnstown Center House at the annual town meeting of April, 1850.)

At one time when reshingling the roof, a solid walnut board was exposed, running the length of the roof and claimed to be two feet wide. Can you visualize the trees that would produce such a board?

In 1867, the house, (owned by a Mr. Holmes) was sold to the Rev. R. G. Wallace, the first resident minister of the Rock Prairie United Brethren Church. Some say the Reverend bought it for his home, but others claim that he bought it to rid the town of the saloon in the cellar. At any rate, this was no deterrent to one of the former owners of the Johnstown Center House.

The Johnstown Center House was built in 1839, two years after Norman Smith made the first claim in Johnstown Township. It contained a ball room, sleeping rooms, kitchen pantry, and a saloon in the basement. George Hatch, well known artist of the times, played the harp there. It had a fine reputation for hilarity and good times; however, it was not until the town meetings were held there that a license was granted to H. B. Johnson and Orlan Wilder to sell liquors "if a quantity less than one gallon;" First town clerks book said license granted June 2, 1851. (The people of the town voted to hold the town meetings

## SOCIAL PARTY

☆ ☆ ☆ AT THE ☆ ☆ ☆

JOHNSON HOUSE, JOHNSTOWN CENTER.

On ..... 1885.

*The Company of Yourself and Ladies is Solicited.*

MUSIC. SMITH \* & \* CORLISS' \* ORCHESTRA. FLOOR MANAGERS. FRANK FINCH. ☆ BURT WELCH.

TICKETS, ONE DOLLAR. H S. JOHNSON, PROP.

*He Walked  
Across the Street  
and Built*

*H*

RCB

Rock County National Bank

1 S. Main · Janesville, Wisconsin 53545





### THE JOHNSON HOUSE 283F

A small building 'kitty corner' across the street from the Johnson House was remodeled and added on to immediately. It also contained a saloon (on the ground floor.) The dance floor was used up until the 1930's. Mrs. Minnie Morse used to help her aunt who cooked in the kitchen of the Johnson House. The kitchen was at the back S. W. corner of the building with the necessary outhouse on the path outside this back kitchen door. The tavern was in the front N.E. corner of the building. Rev. Wallace was fighting a losing battle.

During prohibition, the "Jug" was hidden in the cellar. There was a trap door upon the main floor. A rope was attached to the underside. Upon the end of the rope was a hook and on the hook hung the "Jug." When the law appeared, the jug was thrown down the open trapdoor, the weight of it closing the door whoosh, BANG! after it.

The usual early day stage house had tallow dips hung near the bar and generally no other illumination but the fireplace. The floors were covered with either sawdust or sand. Near the fireplace would be piled a half cord of dry wood and against the wall nearby would be a wooden sink, pitcher of hard water, cake of yellow soap or a container of soft soap. Over the sink was a small mirror and to the side of that were a brush and comb suspended by chains. Long plank tables were used for eating and there was generally a small table for the use of the traveling man for correspondence and card playing. The tavern keeper placed a small lantern on this table after everyone had retired and

any late comer seeking a room then knew that one was available. He took the lantern and tried to find an open door. This was his room. The rooms were not heated. The later frame taverns were heated with fireplaces at each end of the building; two upstairs and two down, and a cookstove in the kitchen attached to the main structure. The upper floor was usually one large hall or ballroom except for a tier of bedrooms along one side. These were tiny little rooms about six by seven and reserved for maiden ladies and guests of high degree. Finding a room in the dark was fine in the winter time but during the summer, these little rooms became quite warm and the doors were left open to seek whatever breeze might come slipping by. A modest man inspected the garments hanging upon the chair rather than peeking into the bed to see if the room was occupied or not. After finding your room it was necessary to inspect it for bugs in the summer and bedclothes in the winter, (of which there was usually a shortage). Most of the time the only thing to decide after coming in from a long cold ride was whether to remove the shoes or not. If the sheets were covered with frost, of course, the shoes remained on the feet and the coat was thrown over the bed for a cover. When you awoke in the morning, the lantern was replaced on the little table with fifty cents beneath it. After a breakfast of bread, bacon and coffee; the traveler went his merry way. Needless to say, the tavernkeeper knew he had had a patron when he found the fifty cents under the lantern and so did his wife when she made the beds.

Sometimes beds were placed in two long rows down the length of the huge upper room. When a dance was to be



held, all these beds had to be moved and after the dance was over, all returned to their places. The Johnstown Center House didn't bother with beds. The men rolled up in their coats, robes, or blankets on the floor of the large ballroom upstairs. It was called the "school section", a little joke of the region. The state had set aside Section 16 in each township for school purposes.

This land was to be cared for and eventually sold for the establishment of the schools of the township. It was common knowledge that much of the school section land throughout the state was robbed of its timber before the land was ever sold. Therefore, they called the large hall the 'school section' because here anyone could help himself to the best that there was, the floor, to pass the night.

One cold evening a Doctor was summoned to see a patient at the Johnstown Center House. Dr. Herman Grey entered the room filled with men rolled up in their robes on the floor, warmed himself by the fire, and asked for his patient.

"Over there, Doc." The man sleepily waved his arm in the direction of a table upon which the sick man lay.

The doctor stepped over this one and around that one and finally got to his patient. He drew back the buffalo robe and cried "Why, Hell, the man has Smallpox!"<sup>1</sup>

The sleeping men leaped to their feet as one man and stampeded for the exits, so great was the fear of this dread disease. The patient was removed to the home of someone who had already recovered from smallpox where he received nursing care. Oftentimes the tavern keeper was the nurse for those who fell sick while staying at his establishment. There were no hospitals to go to.

The stage weighed about 2,500 lbs. and sold for about \$1,250 or more. Nine passengers could wedge inside and more could be accommodated if they were willing to cling to the roof with the luggage. The stage companies looked for steeds with plenty of oomph! It was said that if any strap or coach part broke enroute, the horses never stopped, simply because no one could make them do so. Grandstand displays, generally, were saved exclusively for coming into and going out of town.

The driver was usually bearded because of the abuse his face took from the weather. He wore a flannel shirt, corduroy pants stuffed into high boots, and, during inclement weather, a heavy fur or leather coat: not for him the luxury of riding inside the stage, no matter what it was like outside. He often entered a barroom smelling like a wet dog and looking the same way. He was also more or less proficient in several brands of profanity and skilled with the long whip.

After the days run, the harnesses were cleaned, oiled, and checked over, as was the stage. It was swept out inside, the wheels greased, and oftentimes washed without.

The driver usually betook himself to the bar several times throughout the day. He was the dispenser of the news and the stage house was the gathering place for those anxious to know what was going on. The most frequent entry in the

dairy of Gregory Hall (1880) was "I went to the Center for awhile." During the civil war more than the usual excitement was generated when the stage arrived. People were so eager to find out what was going on.

Charges were pretty cheap compared to today.:

Meals .25c — Lodging, one night — .75c

Boarding by the week with lodging — .75c

Stabling the horse was extra. Grain, hay and care per day, 37½c.

The Beswick Stage line charged (in 1855) Racine to Janesville, about 69 miles and requiring one days time — \$3.00.

On Jan. 10th, 1853, the first locomotive arrived in Janesville, the Southern Wisconsin Railroad Co. In 1856, the St. Paul and Fond du Lac completed track through Janesville. By 1859 it held nearly 10,000 people.<sup>1</sup> People went to the depot and watched the trains come in. Soon the telegraph also arrived, and they listened to that for the news. Stage houses, between cities not served by trains, were used for other purposes or torn down.

The Milwaukee and Debeque R.R. proposed to the town board its intent to run a line through Johnstown. We had some determined farmers in Johnstown who were not going to allow the R.R. to cross their township and tore up the grade every night after the crews went back to their camp. A man named Schmidt who lived on the S side of C.T. "A" was the ringleader of these efforts. The R.R. finally decided to go where it was more welcome. Who can say if this man was right or wrong. Who can say what Johnstown might have become. As it is, another quirk of fate has had its way and Johnstown remains an agricultural community to this day. With the decline of the freighting and stage business passing along C.T. "A" the hotels became delapidated and out of business.

The Johnstown Center House and the Johnson House became residences and then later on, held hundreds of rabbits. The Johnson House was torn down for its lumber during the Second World War when housing was a crucial problem.

(Janesville's Steven's House burned down while yet an infant and of course, not a single bed bug perished there. This so enraged the citizens of Janesville that they decided a bucket brigade was no longer an adequate method of fighting fires and so purchased their first fire fighting equipment.)

So ends an era.

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## Wheat.

We notice from our Office windows, immense quantities of Wheat being brought into town. This we presume is caused by the arrival of the Cars, which already gives a new impulse to business. JAN. 1 1853

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1. Story obtained from Stagecoach & Tavern Days of the Old Northwest p. 333 - 334.



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Picture courtesy of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Photo by H. E. Cole. Johnstown, Wis. about 1925 - Johnson House. Copy negative No. WHI X3 22594

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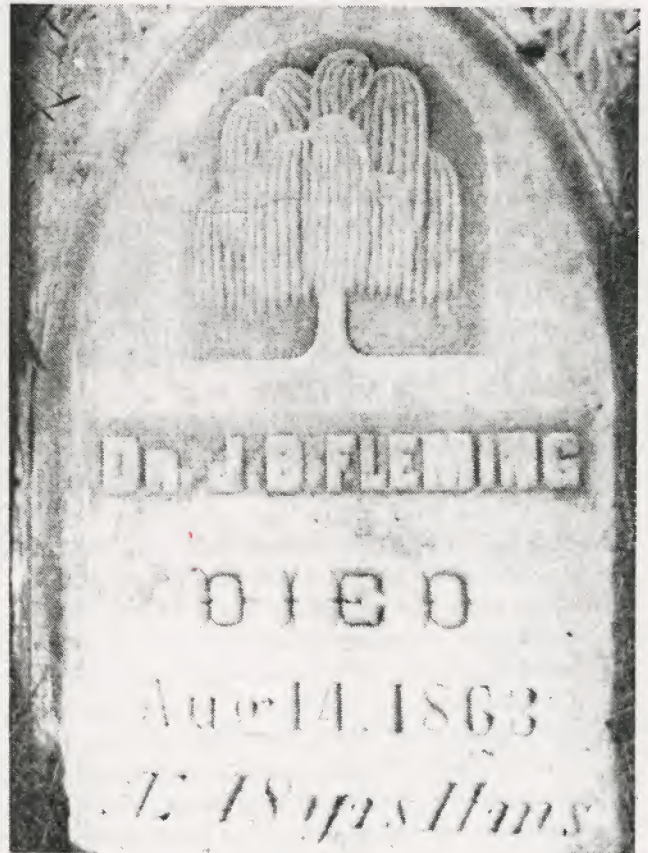
Wm. Appleton Pickett

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Maria Pickett, matron at the County Poor Farm.

W.A. Pickett was overseer at the Poor Farm in 1862. These gentlemen have held the office of Superintendent in the order named: George H. Williston, Alfred Hoskins, John Minton, E.A. Howland, S.S. Blackman, S. G. Colley, Allan Holmes, Charles Peck, F. P. King, H. A. Northrop, W. A. Pickett and C. F. North. The first overseer of the Poor Farm after its purchase by the county was Allen Holmes.



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The first doctor at the Poor Farm is buried at the Johnstown Center Cemetery



PROPOSITION OF MILWAUKEE AND DEBUQUE R. R. CO. TO TOWN OF JOHNSTOWN WIS.

Office, Milwaukee Wis. June 14, 1875

To the people of Johnstown, County of Rock, State of Wisconsin. The Milwaukee and Debuque R. R. Co. propose to build a narrow or three feet gauge Rail Road from the city of Milwaukee in said State to a point in said State opposite or adjacent to the City of Debuque in the City of Iowa or to build a road to run in connection with other roads running to said City of Debuque and to build its road from the City of Milwaukee aforesaid to run within one half mile of a section line running East and West between Section 24 and 25 to the Center Section line North and South in said town of Johnstown and to have the track down and the cars running thereon on or before the first day of November 1877 Provided said town of Johnstown will in pursuance of Chapter 182 Laws of Wis for the year 1872 Entitled: An act to Authorize Municipal Corporations to aid in the constructions of Railroads and all acts amending thereof and also in accordance with chapter 117 of the Laws of the State of Wisconsin for the year 1875 Entitled An Act to Encourage the Building of Narrow Gauge Rail Roads and to Secure Cheap Transportation to the People Vote to subscribe aid to said narrow guage Rail Road to the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and take and accept from said Company 10 first Mortgage Bonds of said Company of One Thousand Dollars Each making in all the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars said bonds of said Company shall draw interest at the rate of Eight percent per annum from three years after their date and not before Said Bonds to run for the period of Twenty five years and said Company reserving the right to redeem said Bonds or any portion or portions thereof at any time during said period, Said town shall as hereinafter provided deliver in Exchange for the said Bonds of said Company when said road is completed and the iron laid thereon ready for the passage of the cars to said point in the town aforesaid. 10 of its bonds of the Denomination of One Thousand Dollars made payable in equal annual payments, the first payment to become due on the 1st day of January next succeeding the completing of the road and laying of the iron to the point above mentioned and to bear Eight percent interest from and after their date payable annually according to coupons to be annexed and in case this proposition is accepted by said town The said Mortgage bonds of said Company and said town Bonds to the same amount shall be executed and deposited in Escrow pending the fulfillment after conditions on the part of said Rail Road Company in the vault of the Bank of Commerce of the City of Milwaukee in care of the President of said Bank such Custodian shall, on the putting down of the track of Rail Road as above provided, deliver the said town bonds to said R. R. Company or its successor and the said First Mortgage Bonds of said Company in exchange therefor to the proper authorities of said town and not before And said town Bonds shall have all the coupons maturing before the road is completed Cut off by said President of said Bank before delivery to said Company and such coupons as have partly matured at the time of such delivery to have endorsed thereon all the accrued portion thereof up to the time of such delivery as paid up in said time and in accordance with said Chapter 117 Laws of 1875 Such Rail Road Company has by Resolution of its Board of Directors on the 23d day of March 1875 duly fixed the Maxium rate of passengers fares and rates of freights of all classes as follows to wit Resolved: That the Maxium Rate of Passengers fares and Rates of freights of all classes over the Milwaukee and Debuque R. R. or which shall be charged or received by said Co. for passengers fares or freight transportated over its line for the period of ten years from this date be and the same on hereby fixed at the rates allowed and specified in Chapter 273 of the Laws of 1874 and Chapter 334 of the Laws of Wisconsin 1875 for Rail Roads belonging to Class H as therein provided and said Resolution is hereby made a part of the proposition to, and agreement with said Town of Johnstown By said Company

In witness whereof said Company has caused this proposition to be signed by its President and attested by its Secretary the day and year above written.

By order of the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee and Debuque Rail Road Company

Harry M. Benjamni President

Attest: Q. H. Steams Secretary



## Naming the Township

Pick a day early in 1843. It's in an era when farmers were allowed to pay some of their property taxes by providing the township with their services for a specified length of time. The township had been surveyed in 1839 but not officially organized as a unit of government yet. The snow is gone and John Fletcher is working for the county today on the local section of the territorial road. Three other men will also be working here today. Here comes one now with his team.

"Hell-l-l-o-o-o, John Davis"

"Same to you, John Fletcher. The others will be along directly. They were hitchin' up their team as I come by."

Soon two more men came within hailing distance.

"Hel-l-o-o-o, John"

"Ain the same ta ye, John."

"Likewise, John."

"Mornin', John."

"Hello, John."

"How do, John?"

"Howdy, John."

"How ya be this morning, John?"

"And a fine one it be, John. How are you?"

"Just fine, John."

"Ya know, boys, we got some important business to transact right soon. Come April, we got to have a name for this here township."

"Right ye be, John Davis."

"Aye, John."

"How about callin' it Johnstown?" chortled John Fletcher.

"Right, John." said John with a chuckle.

A chorus of 'aye, John', and 'Yes, John', and 'Right ye are, John' followed with the usual backslapping, Ha - Ha-n' and such as men are so fond of.

The near team horse raised his head in a long whinney "Nei-i-igh. Good thinking, John."

Of course, horses don't talk. The bare facts are these. John Fletcher and John Davis were occupied, as were two other men, also named John, in laying out the territorial road through Johnstown. All of them were named John so they decided to name the township Johnstown.



*John Fletcher's House. The family in front are Schmalings.*

John was born in Alstead, Essex County, New Hampshire April 2 1805. He married Emily Kent in 1828. She died and he then married Eliza Newkirk. They had five children. He moved from New Hampshire to St. Lawrence County, New York and then to La Porte, Ind. He came to Rock County in the spring of 1837 and claimed 240 acres. He also owned 480 acres in Bradford township, but lived in Johnstown. He was chairman of the board of supervisors, filled the office of assessor a number of terms. He was the first postmaster in Johnstown and kept the first public house in this part of the country. He was one of the first and leading members of the Congregational Church. He later moved to Clear Lake, Iowa.

Shortly after John purchased his land in Johnstown, he decided it would make a good site for a town. John was driving the last stake to mark the area when a land hunter came by from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The land hunter said he was looking for a good spot that had not yet been bought. As an afterthought, he added, "It must be very sickly around here."

"No," said John. "It's the healthiest country in the United States. Why do you ask such a fool question as that?"

"We-e-ll," the man replied. "I see you are laying out a thundering big burying ground." <sup>1</sup>





## 10 FROM JOHNSTOWN LEAVING WITH THE 32 DIVISION

The National Guard call to active duty will be felt throughout the state and the impact of world problems suddenly will press upon many not previously interested, but when 10 youths leave from the same tiny community the impact is bound to be magnified.

This is the case in Johnstown township which is the home of the guardsmen who will be activated Sunday with the 32nd Division. Five of these will go as part of the 128th Headquarters Company, 2nd Battle Group of Whitewater, and the others will leave with Janesville's 32nd Quartermaster Company.

Hit hardest are the excellent farms in the Johnstown area. Farms owned by Ray Morse, Frank Mawhinney, Charles Scharine, Arthur Synder, and Donald Totten, will lose help to the government.

Future school plans and sought after employment have been shuttled to one side for a year.

Three of those leaving with the Quartermaster group are brothers, Spec. 4 Robert, Pfc. Richard, and Pfc. Harry Morse, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Morse.

Robert is employed at the I. G. Hall Implement Co. in Johnstown Center and Richard and Harry work for their father on the family's extensive diversified farm operation.

Pfc. Gilbert Mawhinney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mawhinney, has been renting his grandmother's farm in Darien and helping his father on the farm. Mawhinney, a Milton Union High School graduate, will now have to let the rent go and forget farming for a year.

Pvt. Bruce Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Morgan, is a 1961 Janesville High School graduate. He is the unit's youngest recruit, and has no active duty behind him.

Leading the Whitewater unit is Lt. Charles Scharine, probably better known for the quality of dairy cattle raised by him and his father on their 335 acre farm than for his Army career. Paving the way for his departure, Lt. Scharine auctioned 94 head of cattle. His wife, the former Shirley Ellsworth, and their two daughters, Shelby and April, will continue to live on the farm.

Another dairy farm to lose a major part of the operation is the business operated by Arthur Synder. His grandson, Pfc. Harvey Kucaba is among those to be activated. Kucaba has been living with the Synders.

Spec. 4 Richard Scharine was planning to begin work towards a master's degree after receiving his bachelor of science degree from Whitewater State College. He is the cousin of the commanding officer and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scharine.

Still another dairy operation was hit when Pfc. Larry Totton received his call. Larry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Totton, and had helped his father with the dairy herd.

Pfc. Harlan Stone, son of Ben Stone and the late Mrs. Stone, had been working in Elkhorn and living with his father. Now, his employment has been taken over by the federal government.

The Red Arrow Division was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington. The Janesville unit, known as the 32nd Quartermaster Co., furnished 10 officers, two warrant officers, and 109 enlisted men from this area. Thirty three members of the unit, among them the Morse brothers of Johnstown, left by plane from Milwaukee for Ft. Lewis in mid-October. Upon arrival the advance unit drew rations and broke them down into units, prepared the gas points, and did many other jobs in preparation for the arrival of the rest of the unit on Oct. 26.

A large van was loaded with the tents, gas pumps, tools, and many other items of equipment. 800 cubic feet of space was filled. This van was to be loaded directly onto a flat car. Another group of the guard drove the vehicles of the unit to Madison, where they were also loaded onto railroad cars. The unit remained on active duty for 10 months. At least 85 of the 163 men in the Quartermaster Co. received Christmas furloughs. Ten of the men took early leaves, and 25 of the men had their families with them in Washington.

The duty of the Quartermaster is to provide food for the rest of the division, numbering some 10,000 men in all. Mess hall supplies are drawn daily, except Sundays, at the ration breakdown warehouse and hauled away in green two and one-half ton trucks.

It takes 1,068 loaves of bread, 147 pounds of bacon, 1,588 dozen eggs, 1,053 pounds of butter, 292 pounds of coffee, and 34,127 one-fourth pint cartons of milk to last out the day besides numerous other items added to the list to fill the stomachs of the division at noon and night.

Sp/4C Robert A. Morse is in charge of the perishable items in the cold storage department, including 50 pound boxes of hamburger and eggs that come 30 dozen to the case.

Food amounts are authorized per 100 men in accordance with master menus. Each organization in the division receives its proper ration figured down to the pound. Enlisted men work with calculating machines in the division quartermaster's office. They make sure that some company doesn't end up with nothing but salt tablets for supper.







*These ten youths, all from Johnstown, are among the National Guardsmen called to active duty. Front row - Pfc. Harvey Kucaba, First Lt. Charles Scharine, commander of the 128th, Pfc. Harlan Stone. Second row - three brothers in the Janesville unit, Spec. 4 Robert; Pfc. Harry, and Pfc. Richard Morse. Third row, Spec. 4 Richard Scharine, 128th, Pfc. Gilbert Mawhinney, Janesville unit, and Pfc. Larry Totton, 128th. Rear - Pvt. Bruce Morgan, Janesville guard unit.*



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Truman Blackman stone in Old Johnstown Cemetery. "Born July 12, 1763 in Winchester, Ct., Died Aug. 23, 1850, A soldier of the Revolution." Truman moved to New York state in 1794. His father, Peter, lived "elsewhere" during the Revolution and is believed to have served outside Connecticut.



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WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN 53190



# Our



# Roots

*Josie Chandler Diedrick*

## MEMOIRS OF JOSIE CHANDLER DIEDRICK

I was born in Johnstown Center, in my grandparents home March 31, 1882. My mother was Ellen Anderson, daughter of Oscar and Sarah Owen Anderson of Richmond on the banks of Turtle Lake, Wisconsin. My father, George W. Chandler, son of Laura Ann Chamberlin and George F. H. Chandler was known to all the young men as Dad Chandler, George W. Chandler was elected Town Clerk of the

town of Johnstown when he was 21 years of age, an office he held consecutively until the time of his death on November 5, 1902. My father was a carpenter and many buildings in Johnstown Center and the surrounding country were erected or remodeled by him. I think I was about fourteen or fifteen years of age, when I became the very proud owner of a new bicycle. Gertrude Rockwell, obtained one the same day; they were just alike, and many happy days, and nice trips did we take together. Each day when my father was away at work, I would ride my bike to make him a little visit. He always had some little gift for me; a red apple, some pretty odd blocks of wood, or a flower or beautiful clump of

Lilah Zanton pays tribute to  
"Aunt" Josie, a truly New  
England Lady.



leaves for me to take home. In these days when a carpenter went on a job, he went Monday morning and did not return until Saturday night. In other words, he ate his meals and slept, at the home where he was at work. My father loved nature and was a scholar as well as a carpenter. When I was a little girl, I loved to go and call on the older ladies in our town and sometimes Mamma would let me go and stay for a short time as she didn't want me to be a pest, and I guess I did ask a good many questions, but Mrs. Dentin, Mrs. John Thompson and Mrs. H. B. Johnson always made me welcome. Yes, and Julia M. Pember, while not elderly by any means, was always so sweet and dear, and it was a happy afternoon when I could go and visit her. Mrs. H. B. Johnson always called me Georgie; and she said I should have been named for my father, but it was he who named me Josie, so that was his choice.

When Grandpa Chandler and his mother Draxy Chandler first came to Johnstown Center, Wisconsin, it was almost as difficult to find a house to live in as it is in this day and age. Finally, they moved into a little one room house, with three other families. This was made possible by dividing the house into four rooms, by drawing chalk lines on the floor and each family keeping within these lines, each having one-fourth of the house. The pails of milk were suspended from the rafters by hooks.

Before Grandpa Chandler went back to Bradford, Vt. for his bride, he bought a piece of land about two acres, I believe, on this erected a small house. Mr. Hilan Morse owned the adjoining land, about one acre, and on this he built a house a few years later. Grandpa bought this land from Mr. Morse, and later moved into this new house where my father grew to manhood. He was an ardent baseball fan and a good player. He played first base in the Southern Wisconsin League. Harry Fellows, James McLay, Arthur Aller, John Paine, Royal McGetchie, Frank and Lee Hall were some of the players. My mother used to sew with Mrs. Farnham and spent many happy days in the Pratt home.

One very eventful day in my life, when I was less than one year old, my mother took me with her to spend the day with Mrs. Farnham and the family. Ella Wheeler Wilcox was visiting there at this time and being very fond of babies, she took me in her arms and loved and kissed me. This is a very wonderful memory to me. Grandma Chandler used to do a lot of sewing for the people at the First Rock County Farm in Johnstown when Mr. and Mrs. A. Pickett were the superintendents there, both in her own home and at the home. We had such wonderful neighbors, each and everyone. Everyone loved Dr. Wm. Rockwell; he was ever ready to help the sick and those who were in any trouble. Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Morse, I was only a small child when Mr. Morse died, but as I remember, if any one was needing help, they called on Mrs. Morse and she never refused to do all she could to help. Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Pember, the Randall's, Johnsons both H. B. and Seymour, McGowan, Johnathan Fellows and his wife, Harry Polley and his wife, who ran the meat market, Christ White and his good wife, Mary, who washed and dressed more babies than anyone unless it was Mrs. H. C. Morse. Mart Morse and his wife, Mary; I could go on and on, and such wonderful memories of each and every one from my

childhood until I moved away from Johnstown Center. As I have said before, my father was a carpenter and at one time he was doing some work for David Carter and his good wife, Jane Morton Carter; in those days you ate your meals with the people you were working for, and so one day Mrs. Carter had a dessert that especially pleased my father, so much so, that he asked my mother to go and see Mrs. Carter and ask her how she made this special dessert. Mrs. Carter was kind enough to tell my mother how she made Spread Pie.

One winter, the Modern Woodmen Camp, of which my father was a member, decided to give a play to raise a little money. They finally decided on a western play called "Tatters, the Pet of Squatters Gulch." My father was in the play as Mayor Timberlake, his daughter Tatters, was Hettie McFarlane, and Pete McFarlane as the sweetheart of Tatters, a part he played with great success. As you all know, Hettie was his own wife and a dear, sweet person she was. Others in the play were Otis Hall, Ed Carter, George Gentle, Mrs. Frank Hall and Emma Hall as her daughter. The play was given in the large hall over the store, at this time owned and operated by Frank Hall. It was very successful and was given again at Emerald Grove. I still have a copy of the play, "Tatters."

School days are happy days and I have so many pleasant memories of my school days. Miss Mary Wahl, (I hope that is the way she spelled it), it was pronounced Wah, was my first teacher. Others were Mrs. Cora Dickinson, Otis Hall, Miss Julia Arnold, now Mrs. Julia Martin, who boarded with us. Mrs. Mark Knilans, Fanny Ward (Caveny) Eva Kidder (Hall) and others who I have not named. Margaret Mullen was my teacher when I received my diploma and David Thorne was superintendent at that time, now many years ago. Our last day of school, when the term closed, was a great event with a program and a gift for our teacher. On Friday afternoons we used to have contests, arithmetic matches, spelling geography etc. It kept you alert, eager to study and do your best. One very sad memory was the death of Jessie Cary, only child of Kate Riley and George Cary. They lived west of Johnstown Center on a farm, on what now is called County Trunk A. Jessie was a student in Janesville High School. She came home every Friday to spend the weekend with her parents. At this particular time, she came home Friday with a cold and sore throat. On Saturday she went skating on a near-by pond with some of the young people who were her neighbors. Her parents tried to persuade her not to go out this particular time, to stay home and take care of a very bad throat, but Jessie laughed and said the fresh air would do her good. She came home later, a very sick girl, her sore throat had developed into diphtheria and despite all that medical skill could do further, she passed away at the age of seventeen years. I remember so well the day she was buried, standing by the window with my mother, seeing the two vehicles pass by, one with the casket and her father and pastor in the other one, her mother, ill from grief not able to accompany them and on account of a contagious disease, no service could be held and her many friends were unable to attend. I'll never forget how heart breaking it was to see them pass so alone, so heartbroken.



From the time I was a little girl, we had Sunday School every Sunday afternoon in the church at Johnstown Center built in 1847. My mother and I always went, in fact my mother was one of the S. S. teachers. Margaret Morton was our Supt. and Mary and Anna McGowan were also teachers. Many of the pupils went to the Rock Prairie Presbyterian with their parents and attended Sunday School and church services at this church in the A.M. and then attended our S. S. at the Center in the afternoon. The two Mawhinney families of George and Frank were in this group. Mrs. Julia Morse Pember was another one of our teachers, a faithful worker, and I know all the children loved her. At Christmas time, we always had a huge Christmas tree and a program in which all took part from the small ones to the grown ups. There were always gifts for all with candy, nuts, oranges, apples and pop-corn balls. I remember one program that stands out so vividly in my mind. Mrs. Wm. Pember (Nellie Pickett) sang a solo, "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem," with Mrs. W. B. Rockwell at the organ. It truly was beautiful, at one time, we had a Christian Endeavor Society which met one evening each week. Alice Millard usually played the organ for those meetings and everybody sang. We really had nice music. The two Mawhinney families, George and Frank, were all nice singers and helped in any way possible. When summer came and it was time to really clean the church, the ladies and young people all came with mops, brooms, buckets and soap and gave the places a real cleaning. Mr. Blish kept the key and always opened and locked up the building. Some of the time different ones would go and clean and fill the kerosene lamps which we used there. I will never forget one particular day in June 18, when we were busy at the church; a wedding party went by to Janesville; we all rushed out on the platform and waved good wishes to Kittie White and John McCann, as they were on their way to be married at St. Marys Church in Janesville. She truly was a lovely bride.

I could go on and on telling of the many good kind neighbors, always standing by when you needed help. Of our Sunday School and Christian Endeavor meetings and of the many deeds done by our neighbors, who I have failed to mention by thoughts and memories to the dear ones who have gone on "across the great divide," and the dear ones who are still herein,

Josie Chandler Diedrick

Feb. 27, 1956

*Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

## Family History of Ella Wheeler Wilcox

A young carpenter from "down Country" had grown restless. Taking his tool chest, he left Connecticut with no particular destination in mind. He stopped in Thetford, Vermont, to do some cabinet work. There he met Eunice Hosford whose early family had often been forced to seek shelter in the Thetford woods at night from the Indians. Amos Wheeler was born June 14, 1762; Eunice Hosford was born March 31, 1767. They were married August 20, 1788 by the Reverend Asa Burton in the Town of Thetford.

They bought a stony small farm near her family. Amos, with his "do it yourself kit", built their home and furniture. To them were born thirteen children. Several died early in youth. With the exception of the thirteenth, the others scattered to many areas of the new nation. The thirteenth was Marcus Hartwell Wheeler born July 14, 1808. A Fourth of July accident confined him to bed for many

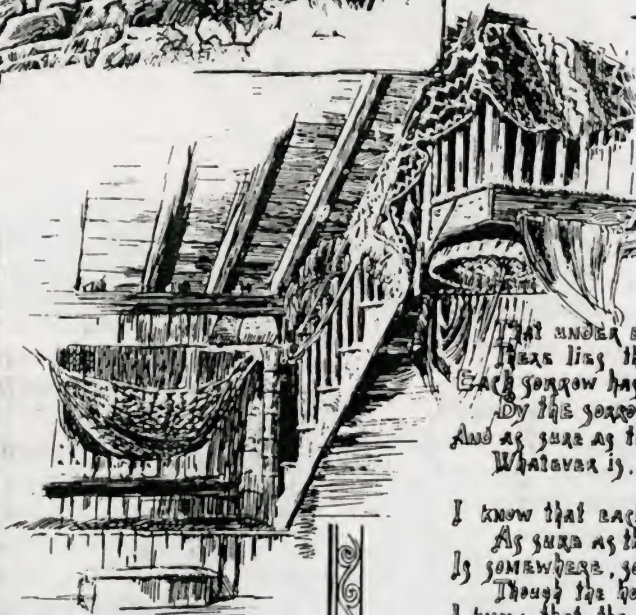


Picture courtesy of Rock Co. Historical Society

1 from "R. C. Chronicle" Dec. 1955 published by R. C. Historical Society.



Christmas Eve. To near East, Maryland



## WHATEVER IS, IS BEST.

I know as my life  
grows older  
And mine eyes have  
clearer sight,

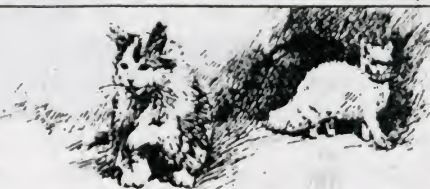
That under each rank wrong somewhere,  
There lies the root of right.  
Each sorrow has its purpose  
By the sorrowing oft unrecognized,  
And as sure as the sun brings morning  
Whatever is, is best.

I know that each sinful action  
As sure as the night brings shadow  
Is somewhere, sometime punished.  
Though the hour be long delayed.  
I know that the soul is alone  
Sometimes by the heart's unrest,  
And to grow means often to suffer,  
But whatever is, is best.

I know there are no errors  
In the great Eternal plan,  
And all things work together  
For the final good of man.  
And I know when our souls spread onward  
In their grand eternal quest  
We shall say as we look back earthward,  
"Whatever is, is best".

Edna I. Mearns

1915-KNIGHT





months. In this period his great love of music was accentuated. His violin became a necessary part of him for his entire long life. When he was strong again, he took dancing lessons. He became an accomplished carriage maker. A brief trip into Canada taught him a love of courtesy from the French. He began teaching dancing and "manners" in Bradford, Vermont, fourteen miles north of Thetford. Bronson Orcutt, father of Louise M. Orcutt, was teaching in East Thetford at the time, so a bit of transcendentalism was affecting these Vermonters.

The Pratts have always smiled with pride when the name Billy Pratt was mentioned. He served a commissioned officer as just a mere lad in the early part of the Revolutionary War. Later he went into full service in place of a wealthy man's son. For this he was payed well and this gave his widowed mother in Bradford, Vermont, economic security. Later Billy Pratt became a Baptist preacher. He was always kind and known for his sharing of all his *earthly* goods. Billy Pratt married a dainty French miss, Elizabeth Currier. They finally settled on a farm two miles from Bradford in the County of Orange.

One of their sons, William, was destined to work the farm. Small New England farms are not always a source of enough family income, so William Pratt broke horses for officers in the state militia. He teamed between Bradford and Boston. On one of these trips he met a beautiful black eyed colleen, Abigail O'Connor. Their friendship culminated in a happy marriage. To them were born six children: Edward, named for William's brother, and five daughters, Amine, Sarah J., Elizabeth, Abigail and Mary Ann. William and Abigail Pratt sent their three oldest daughters into Bradford to school. The three Pratt girls attended the dancing school. Remember - - Marcus H. Wheeler was the dancing teacher and the violin player. So it was, the future parents of Ella Wheeler Wilcox met. Marcus H. Wheeler and Sarah J. Pratt drove to Thetford Hill, May 22, 1836, and were married by the Justice of the Peace, Marcus' Uncle Herman Hosford. Marcus took his lovely bride to the home of his mother, Eunice. To them were born, while they lived in Vermont, three children: Marcus Pratt Wheeler, April 28, 1837; Sarah Ann Wheeler, April 22, 1842; and Edward Gilman Wheeler, April 16, 1846.

The story of Ella Wheeler Wilcox cannot be divorced from her immediate family and her mother's family, the Pratts. Not only their talents and traits, the English, the French, the Irish blood, but their activities were to influence her life.

Amine Pratt married a promising young lawyer, J. W. D. Parker of Bradford. Sarah J. Pratt's marriage to Marcus H. Wheeler pleased the family. The marriage of Elizabeth Pratt was not so acceptable to the family. She married Stebbins Barker, a harnessmaker of Bradford. Yet it was Stebbins Barker who changed the lives of this New England family.

A harness shop can be a place of much talk. Stebbins' was. The Pickett family was one of the town's civic minded families. John A. Pickett had gone "pioneering." He had taken his wife and three children to Wisconsin Territory where there were miles of level land. He had returned to Bradford in the summer of 1837. No realtor ever carried

more enthusiasm than he. This new country was a main topic of conversation. The men went to their homes to report to their wives of the wonders in Wisconsin Territory. They told of the prairie, the oak openings of the two hamlets "just like Bradford."

After John A. Pickett returned to Johnstown, known as Tartown then because oxen drivers stopped at the Luke Beldin's Hotel for pine tar to lubricate the wooden wagon wheels, he continued to write long and glowing reports to friends in Bradford, Vermont. He found Mr. C.W. Virgin had broken twenty acres of land for him and sowed to acres of wheat.

"The country is settled beyond calculation . . . land at one Dollar and twenty five cents per acre . . . We expect to have a school here next summer also there is expected to be a Seminary in operation at the mouth of the Turtle soon . . . You can see by what I have written what is doing in this country which short of two years ago was inhabited by nothing but Indians and wild beasts of the forest."

This letter was written December 14, 1837, from Rock County.

More enthusiastic letters followed. Stebbins Barker and wife Elizabeth Pratt Barker followed the Picketts. Finally in 1846 William Pratt, wife Abigail, and their three unmarried children came to Johnstown, finally named. They caused a stir on their arrival because they came on the old Vermont team wagon. The New York wagon width was customary in Wisconsin. Here was one which tracked six feet!

Close to the Pickett homestead William Pratt bought 120 acres from Mr. Virgin. To be safe, he bought part prairie and part woods. The home he built that year stands solid and firm today on the Old Milwaukee Stage Road (County Trunk A). Three and a half miles east on this same road Stebbins Barker had built a one story home sixteen by twenty-four feet in a thriving village named for the township, Johnstown. Stebbins Barker did not stay in any one place to long.

\* \* \* \*



*William Pratt House*



This Milwaukee Stage Road was a busy road between the lead ore mines in the Mineral Point region and Milwaukee. The Beldin Hotel was a popular hotel. There was need for another inn. Luke Beldin leased this one to Stebbins Barker and built another pretentious, mammoth structure with long wings on each side, known as "Longville." He was playing it safe, too; he built it on the same road nearer the "Center" which was beginning to show signs of outdoing Johnstown Village. In less than half a dozen years this handsome building was to become Rock County's first County Farm.

The "Center" was experiencing a boom because the government military road running between Chicago and Portage ran through a new city, Madison. Many saw that the point where this road crossed the Milwaukee Stage Road was a more advantageous place to set up business. Stebbins Barker sold his home to a Center resident. Fifty oxen from the surrounding neighborhood were brought in to move the house to the Center. They only managed to get tangled up in their chains. That was a busy day for the blacksmith shop. Sixteen trained oxen from the ore region stopped and with uniform step moved the house from Johnstown Village to the "Center" two and a half miles away. That was the year Johnstown became "Old" Johnstown. The strife between the two hamlets is bleakly recorded in the town records.

\* \* \* \* \*

Back in Vermont, Marcus Wheeler's mother Eunice died January 23, 1849. His wife missed her parents, the William Pratts. Marcus sold the 59 acres and 60/100 of an acre for \$37.50 per acre. They, too, packed for the trip to Johnstown. The tool chest from "down country" with other goods was shipped. The violin went with the family. June, 1849, the last of the Wheelers left Bradford, Vermont. They stopped in Boston to visit friends and points of interest. Their two older children, Marcus and Sarah, were eager travelers. They visited in Troy, New York. They continued to travel by railroad daytime and on the canal boats by night because they could rest in the berths on the boat. From Buffalo they came by train to Detroit, Michigan, to Chicago by steamer and took another boat to Milwaukee. Finally the awaited reunion became a reality and the Wheelers were at home again with Grandsire and Grandm'am Pratt. Aunt Abbey, the spinster, who loved and spoiled them all, had baked for weeks for this occasion, mincemeat pie and all. The Wheelers were not the only arrivals at the Pratt Homestead that day. Cuffie had a litter of new pups. Animals were an important part of the Wheeler life, so these new puppies moved right along with the Wheeler boys."

After "old home week" was over, the neighbors, the McKillips and the Giffords, brought up to date on Vermont news, the Wheelers looked around for permanent quarters. Where were the Picketts? John A. Pickett had died in August of 1839. His was the first burial in Johnstown. His wife and four children returned to Vermont; later she married Mr. Gifford and they returned to her first husband's property in Johnstown.

The Wheeler family came down to Luke Beldin's hotel where Sarah Wheeler's sister and brother-in-law

were the proprietors. Marcus with his gracious manners and ever present violin was welcome wherever he went. Sarah helped "Lizzie" with the hotel. They were very busy. Sarah was always glad afterward that she had this opportunity to visit her sister.

Shortly afterward Steb Barker, his wife and little daughter Georgie joined "the mobility" for California gold. Ironically all the gold they had earned at the Beldin Hotel had been quilted in Lizzie's petticoat.

"Between San Francisco and Marysville, 'the Brogden' rammed their boat, which sunk rapidly. In transferring passengers, bumping of the boats caused Aunt Elizabeth to step between them and fall into the water. In her skirt she had their entire fortune - gold coins quilted into the skirt for safety - and their weight prevented her rising to the surface and her body was never recovered by her husband."

Little Georgie was sent back to Aunt Abbey, another one to be loved.

Hotel life is not for a family. There were five bachelors rooming and boarding at the hotel: Dr. Hart and Dr. Smith busy attending "fever and ague cases", George Fletcher, a merchant of the village, Robinson the tailor and Arthur B. Braley, a young lawyer. The latter was to play an important part in the Wheeler family life throughout the years.

Truman Parmele had bought an acre of land from Leroy Tucker on the southwest corner of what is now the Scharine Road and County Trunk A. He built a frame house kitty corner from the Beldin Hotel. The house just west of his home on the Tucker property still stands. The election on the state constitution and the first state election for Johnstown voters was held here. It is now owned by Matt Reuter.<sup>1</sup> Right beside the frame house he started to build a large general store. Because he suffered financial reverses the building was never finished. Trade was going "Center way" anyhow. He put his property in the hands of Cowles and Ross of Milwaukee. Mr. Arthur B. Braley of Johnstown was their lawyer and local agent. The house was empty; the Wheelers were looking for a home; lawyer Braley had one to rent. Mr. Braley wrote the terms of the lease and Marcus and Sarah Pratt Wheeler with their three eager children moved across the road. They lived here until April 1852.

Ella Wheeler was born in this frame house November 5, 1850. A copy of a photograph of the family register plainly shows the family vital statistics. There can be no doubt of the date of her birth. November 5, 1850, not one little girl but two little girls were born in this community, Ella Wheeler of Old Johnstown and Mary Eloise Randall born on the same cross road south just over the line in Bradford.

November 5, 1850! To quote from a television program, "What kind of a day was it? A day like all days." The stage coach was eagerly awaited. There might be back copies of the *Vermont Family Gazette* or the *Green Mountain Gem*. The debates in Congress were becoming more heated about slavery in new territories. Horace Mann was taking a definite stand. He and Daniel Webster had broken their friendship



after the latter's Seventh of March speech. Then, too, maybe the *Vermont Patriot* would tell the ladies what Elizabeth Peabody was doing. This sister of Mrs. Horace Mann and Mrs. Nathaniel Hawthorne always made interesting reading and news.

Much of interest was happening at home, too. A Petition was being circulated this November 5, mostly by Center men, for a special town meeting to raise additional money to meet school expense and town expense. Schools had been closed. Low farm prices and free flowing "grog" whiskey had caused a severe economic problem. Guided by necessary economy on one hand and the pressing needs of the unfortunate on the other, the town had been caught in a squeeze. The center finally had enough votes, after years of attempts, to swing the place of election from the Luke Beldin Hotel to H. B. Johnson House, 97 to 90. The Center was winning the elections but fate gave Old Johnstown a unique honor that year, the birth of a future world renowned poetess!

The progressive Johnstown farmers were co-operating with Frances Willard's father in the promotion of better agriculture to promote better income. Most active was the Honorable A.M. Carter just south of the Wheelers. Not only was he a progressive farmer but he had been one of the Fathers of the State Constitution. Then, too, Eldred, Fletcher, Galbrath, McLay and Barlass were joining the struggle for better farming practices and better livestock. The Scotch were just beginning to settle the Prairie that they later made famous.

Little Eddie Wheeler was making believe he was a "wild goose 'sailing' on de ozun"; Sarah Ann Wheeler was a "busy little homemaker" going with her father evenings to "Longville." He played the violin for the dances and the little eight year old was always asked to sing. Fourteen year old Marcus spent all the time he could with Grand-sire Pratt. He helped him husk corn that fall. That was where he was November 5 when news came the next day of a new baby sister, Ella. This was a devoted family and Ella was the proverbial "spoiled baby"

\* \* \* \*

Marcus Wheeler and several Johnstown famers heard land was cheaper north of Madison. "Henry Benson bought land in the township of Westport, Marcus Wheeler bought his adjoining Benson's in section 2 Westport, Hiram Cramer bought his across the town line in township of Vienna. The land of Major May joined Cramer's." So these Johnstown neighbors were to be lifelong neighbors north of Madison near Windsor.

April 10, 1852, the Wheeler family set out for their new home in Dane County. Again Amos Wheeler's carpenter chest was on the move, and two puppies! The famous violin was to find its last home. But the Wheelers left many enduring ties in Johnstown. The Pratt home was to remain "second home" especially to the two older children. Sarah Ann came back to teach in the community and to marry Dr. Elnathan Bond of Johnstown Center in 1866. George Esterly writes, "My first reaper on which I placed the first caster wheel ever used on a reaper, I sold to a man in Johns-

town." Marcus Pratt Wheeler was on hand to see it work for the first time.

Ella's father, Marcus, built a new home. The oak lumber was hauled two miles; the pine board and shingles came twenty miles from Portage, taken to Madison to be planed, another twenty-five miles the two ways. They made their own window and door frames and puttied the panes of glass in the sash. Baby Ella objected to the building. "I don't want to live in a sawnill." The home was finally finished in December, 1853. Here Ella was to live until her marriage to Robert M. Wilcox on May 2, 1884.

\* \* \* \*

Ella Wheeler Wilcox's life span reached from 1850 to 1919, important years for the Common Man to whom, through her many avenues of newspapers, magazines and books, she brought comfort and courage. "In 1900 she received a telegram from the Texas Federation of Labor as 'The brightest star among labor's champions,' she also knew more how to love than where to hate."

Ella's life was lived as she prayed her morning prayer:

"Let me to-night look back  
across the span  
'Twixt dawn and dark, and  
to my conscience say  
Because of some good act  
to beast or man - -  
'The world is better that  
I lived to-day."



Ella Wheeler Wilcox



We recall the Wheeler family story about Baby Ella in Johnstown, Rock County. Her busy mother, annoyed by Ella's pet cat, sent it sailing out the back door. Toddler Ella pleaded, "Mamma, put it out a'walking'."

Judged by the standards of the scholar, Ella was a "bad major poet." Like Abou Ben Adam, Ella could reply, "Write me then as one who loves his fellow-men."

It was fitting that Edwin Markham, a friend of the common man and eloquent writer of "The Man With the Hoe", should read her burial service a few short days before her seventieth birthday.

Perhaps it was even more fitting that Berton Braley, another Wisconsin writer and son of Judge Arthur B. Braley, the former young lawyer of the 1850 Johnstown saga, should read an original poem at memorial exercises in Springfield, Massachusetts, over . . . . .

"The woman whose lips are still  
but whose soul is the soul of love."

\* \* \* \*

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer would like to acknowledge her gratitude to the following people who have helped so generously in the preparation of the preceding article: Fred Pratt, Johnstown Center; Isabel and Delilah Pember, Janesville; Maude V. Dickinson, Madison; Carr Kumlien, Milton; Mrs. Fred Williamson, Windsor; Mr and Mrs. Will Borst, Brooklyn, Wis.; and The Loyal Duty Club of Johnstown township.

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February 12, 1908, on one of the Wilcox's five voyages to Port Antonio, Jamaica, at the Hotel Litchfield, the proprietor asked Ella at noon to write a short poem for the menu card on Lincoln's Birthday. She had an hour to do this. The cards were beautifully printed by dinner. She always seemed to work best surrounded by people she loved and great activity about her.

#### LINCOLN

When God created this good world  
A few stupendous peaks were hurled  
From His strong hand, and they remain,  
The wonder of the level plain.  
But these colossal heights are rare,  
While shifting sands are everywhere.

So with the race. The centuries pass,  
And nations fall like leaves of grass  
They die - - forgotten and unsung,  
While straight from God some souls are flung  
To live, immortal and sublime.  
So lives great Lincoln for all time.

The first poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox ever read in public was requested by none other than the governor of Wisconsin, General Lucius Fairchild, "the one-armed hero of Gettysburg". The occasion was the decoration of soldier's graves in Madison. Major Myers eloquently pronounced the verses which began . . . . .

Gather them out of the valley,  
Bring them from moorland and hill,  
And cast them in wreaths and in garlands  
On the city so silent and still;  
So voiceless and silent and still,  
Where neighbor speaks never to neighbor,  
Where the song of the bird and the  
brown bee is heard  
But never the harsh sounds of labor.

The editor of the New York *American* asked Ella to sail to London; Queen Victoria was dying and the *American* wanted an American Poetess there to report her impressions of a royal funeral. At three o'clock in the morning at the Hotel Cecil after several miserable days of no inspiration the poem came clearly. At seven that morning, "I wrapped the down comfortable about me, lighted the impotent little gas grate, and sitting on the floor, while my husband slept, wrote the poem which opened the hearts of all England to me."

"The poem was cabled to the New York *American* and was cabled back again by them to an evening paper in London (I think it was the *Mail*) that same day, crossing the ocean twice in twelve hours." This was January 27, 1901!

This poem was entitled "The Queen's Last Ride" and begins. . . . .

The Queen is taking a drive to-day;  
They have hung with purple the carriage-way,  
They have dressed with purple the royal track  
Where the Queen goes forth and never comes back.

\* \* \* \*



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From R. C. Chronicle - Dec. 1955 - published by the Rock County Historical Society.



LOYAL DUTY CLUB in 1920— In front - Sue Mawhinney, Florence Hull, Hettie McFarlane, Nellie Rye and babies, Fannie Cavaney, Maud Clark - - - Esther Bjorkland, Phyllis McFarlane, Ora Hugunan, Sarah Hull, Ruth Rye, Grace Rye, Anna Duthie, Grandma Rye, Joan Zuill, Ruby McFarlane, Marie Ward, Bell Duthie, Anna Nickerson.



## TO ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

Dedication of the marker placed at her birthplace in the town of Johnstown by the Loyal Duty Club.

When memory recalls those mellow days  
Like a harp's unfingered strings  
Murmuring forgotten melodies  
Hark! to the tale it brings.

Of an old time trail where the pioneers,  
Passed on their westward way  
To the mines of lead and the fertile lands  
That far to the Westward lay.

Remember that once on this narrow road  
That the rising tide of an empire flowed.  
Warchiefs, wearing the eagle crest  
Trappers in homespun and buckskin dressed.  
Keen eyed hunters they read the tale  
Of every foot print upon the trail.  
Jesuit priests in their sober dress  
Who died for their God in the Wilderness.

Warrior, trapper and Jesuit knew  
This trail from the lakes to the lands of the Sioux  
Out to the westward the settlers went  
Driven by hope and by discontent.  
Back to the Eastward the oxtteams bore  
A new lands treasurers of wheat and ore.

Here, by this trail, a pioneer  
Builted a home on the new frontier --  
Barren it was, and lacking cheer,  
Crude, were the homes of the pioneer.  
Here, she was born, of the gifted pen,  
A pen that could write in flame  
She wrote of the things in the hearts of men  
Of their lives, their loves, their shame.

No gallant knight e'er sought the Holy <sup>Grail</sup> Gyal  
With nobler purpose or more perfect faith.  
Her mystic's eye could pentatrate the veil  
Hiding the shadowland, that men call death.

There she has gone, but the songs she sung  
Are a woven part of our mother tongue.  
Numbered among the great of earth  
We claim her -- ours by right of birth.

Jesuits, trappers and pioneers  
Have passed on their way to the new frontiers.  
Here, by their trail -- ere time erase  
Those things from memory, with reverent hand  
We set this tablet in its place  
That those who come may understand.

J. D. Clark  
Richmond, Wisconsin (Walworth Co.)



25

Home of Marcus and Sarah Pratt Wheeler. Birthplace of Ella Wheeler Wilcox.







*Wisconsin Legislature - A. M. Carter of Johnstown is marked.*

ALMIRA M. CARTER, farmer, Secs. 15 and 26; P.O. Johnstown, born in Litchfield, Conn., in 1814; came to Wisconsin in 1843, located at Johnstown, where he purchased 244 acres, his present homestead. Mr. C. is one of the first settlers in Johnstown, and is considered a very successful farmer, making a specialty of fine-wool sheep, and making shipments to Chicago and Milwaukee. Married, in 1836, Miss Dolly E. Wadham, a native of Connecticut, who died at Johnstown in 1847, leaving three children, one son and two daughters; one daughter died at the age of 17 years while attending school at New York City. He married again, in 1848, Miss Sarah Wedge, a native of Warren, Conn.; they have one daughter. At the breaking-out of the war, being too old to go himself, he sent his only son, who served through the war. Mr. Carter was Assessor four years, Town Clerk and County Commissioner; in 1847 and 1848, assisted in drafting the Constitution of the State; was a member of the Legislature in 1868. Republican.

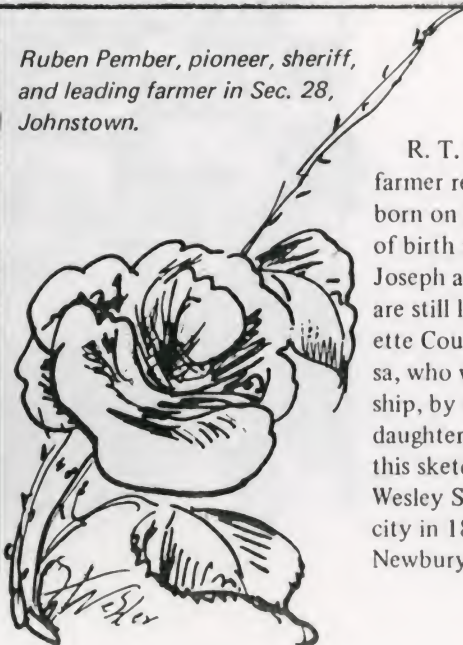
"Hist. R.C. 1879" p. 809



*Ruben Pember, pioneer, sheriff, and leading farmer in Sec. 28, Johnstown.*

## R. T. PEMBER

R. T. Pember, ex-sheriff of Rock County, and a leading farmer residing on Section 28, Johnstown Township, was born on the 15th of August, 1826. He was the third in order of birth in a family of six children, whose parents were Joseph and Mary (Thompson) Pember. Three of the family are still living - - John B., who is engaged in farming in Fayette County, Iowa, is married and has three children; Clarissa, who wedded John Scofield, a farmer of Johnstown Township, by whom she had six children, two sons and four daughters, died on the 3rd day of September, 1877; R. T., of this sketch, is the next in order of birth; Mary, who wedded Wesley Stevens, a merchant of Marysville, Cal., died in that city in 1858, leaving two children; Lydia is the wife of Walter Newbury, a resident farmer of Butler County, Kansas, and to







*Delilah Newbury Pember, wife of  
Ruben Pember*



*The Janesville Jail during the days when Ruben was sheriff.*

them have been born eight children, all of whom are living. In 1834, Joseph Pember, the father of this family, died, and the mother was again married, her second union being with Daniel P. Fornham. Unto them were born three children -- Moses, who for twelve years engaged in school teachings, is a local preacher of Colusa County, Cal., where he also operates a farm; Sarah is the wife of Edward Everett, a resident of Sioux City, Iowa, and unto them have been born six children, all of whom are living; Melvina, wife of Robert Tompkins died at Iron Mountain, Mo., in 1878, leaving three children, one son and two daughters.

The subject of this sketch spent his early life in Chautauqua County, N.Y., receiving his education in the district schools, and in 1844, at the age of eighteen years, he accompanied the family to Wisconsin. They traveled by land, leaving New York on the 7th day of May, and on the 3rd day of June arrived at their destination, having traveled 600 miles. The first home of the family was in a loghouse, which now stands on the farm of Mr. Pickett, and its inmates numbered thirty people. In the fall of the year, Mr. Pember's step-father purchased what is known as part of the Belle Farm, and the family removed to their new home.

Two years after the arrival of our subject in Rock County, he commenced working by the month for Shubal Farr, and continued at farm labor through the summer of 1846. The following winter he attended school for about two months, which completed his education. On the 18th day of March, 1847, he led to the marriage altar Miss Delilah, a daughter of Stephen and Esther (Turner) Newbury a former resident of Chautauqua County, N.Y. In 1845, she emigrated with her parents to Rock County, Wis., where they passed the remainder of their days, the father's death occurring Oct. 15, 1880, and the mother departing this life in 1885. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are yet living -- Walter, who is engaged in farming in Butler County, Kan.; Soresta, widow of Benjamin Gifford, is living in Chautauqua County, N.Y., and has two children, both living; Delilah, wife of our

subject, is the next in order of birth; Sally A., wife of Joshua Flint, a resident of Green County, Wis., has become the mother of four children; Franklin, who wedded Margaret Pickett, died in 1872, leaving his widow and two children, a daughter and son, who now reside in the town of Milton, Rock County.

After his marriage, Mr. Pember purchased the farm now owned by J. Hadden on the "middle road", and for thirteen years continued its cultivation; having in the meantime purchased 120 acres from his brother, thus giving him a farm of 400 acres. Selling this farm in 1860, he moved with his family to Johnstown Center, near his present farm on section 28, where he resided until Jan. 1, 1863. In the previous fall he had been elected sheriff of Rock County on the Republican ticket, and on the 1st day of January, entered upon the duties of that office, serving a term of two years. He then engaged in the livery business in Janesville, until 1870, when he was re-elected to the position of Sheriff, serving another term. In 1873, he returned to his farm, where he has since made his home, with the exception of one year. He has dealt quite extensively in real estate, having at different times owned 2500 acres of land besides considerable property in Janesville. His farm now comprises 400 acres, which is under a fine state of cultivation, and pays a golden tribute to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. The improvements are many and are all that are necessary to the model farm of the Nineteenth century. His farm has been reduced in size by the gift of land to his three sons, the total value of which is about \$20,000.

Five children have been born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Pember, and four of that number are yet living -- Rosette, who was born Jan. 23, 1850, is the wife of James Fitzgibbons, a machinist of Janesville, and unto them have been born three children -- Nellie, who is now deceased; Frank and Lettie J. Frank, who was born Dec. 12, 1858, is a leading physician of Janesville, whose sketch will be found elsewhere in this work. He graduated from the Chicago Medical College in the class of 1883, after which he spent one year in the hospi-



tal, and later engaged in the practice of his profession at the Northern Insane Asylum near Oshkosh for two years, after which he spent one year in Chicago, and then removed to Hinsdale, Minn., where he was engaged as a physician for the Minnesota Granite Company one year, after which he located at Janesville. He married Miss Ada Humphrey; Walter wedded Miss Julia Morse, a resident of Johnstown Center; William, who was born Dec. 5, 1860, is unmarried.

During the dark days of the Rebellion Mr. Pember did much for his country in the way of encouraging enlistments. Prevented from entering the service himself on account of the loss of the sight of his right eye, he was one of two to put a man in the field. The old soldier always found in him a true friend. Politically, he is an ardent Republican, his first Presidential vote being cast for John C. Fremont, in 1856, and his last for Benjamin Harrison in 1888.

Mr. Pember is one of the leading citizens of Rock County.

He is a man of fine business ability, energetic and enterprising, and has made his own way in the world. He has been identified with the leading interests of the county for many years, and has witnessed almost its entire growth from the days of its early history. In addition to the office of Sheriff, he has served his fellow-citizens as Supervisor for two years, and at different times he has been a Member of the School Board. In all his official positions he has discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity, reflecting credit upon himself and his constituents. He is now President of the Rock County Agricultural Society, which position he has held for eight years, and holds the same office in the Johnstown Fire Insurance Company. The honorable and upright course which he has pursued in both public and private life has won him the respect and confidence of all with whom business or pleasure have brought him in contact, and by his many friends he is held in the highest regard.<sup>1</sup>



*Pember house, currently the home of Stuart Shadel Jr. and family. (No. 287)*

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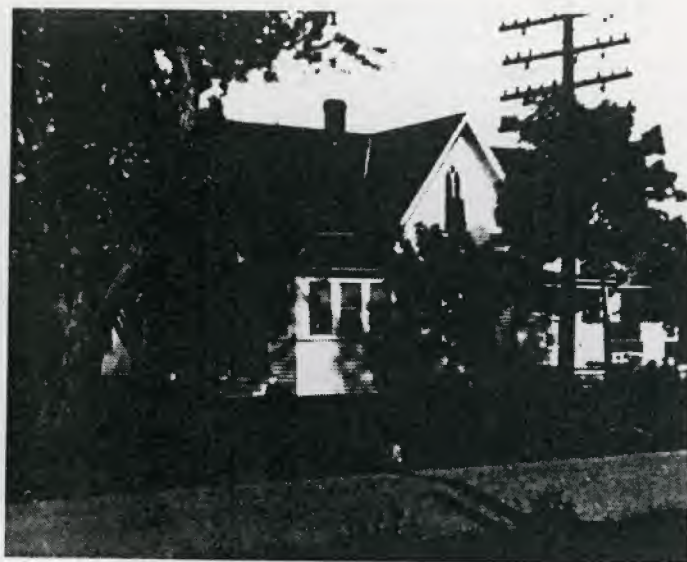
# ***Shadel Farms***

<sup>1</sup> Portrait and Biographical Album of R.C. p. 307





*Wally Pember, married Julia Morse from across the road.*



*The Morse house was remodeled but later burned down Feb. 11, 1955.*



*Upon the ashes of the Morse house rose the home of Mrs. I. G. Hall, built by the late I.G.Hall (No. 286)*

## HALL

GREGORY D. HALL, farmer, Secs. 21 and 16; P.O. Johnstown Center; born in Monroe Co., N.Y. Aug. 7, 1835; son of Isaiah and Olive Hall, who came to Wisconsin in 1846, located in Koshkonong, Jefferson Co.; the parents are living in De Kalb Co., Ill. Gregory Hall owns 275 acres; is a strong Republican. Has served as Assessor four years, and was Chairman of the Town in 1878; is also Secretary of the Town Insurance Company, organized April 8, 1875. Married Miss Ann E.,

daughter of John and Rebecca Austin, of Lima, Nov. 10, 1859; they have six children - Cora E., Frank B., Ulysses S., Mary J., Otis and Willie. Mr. Hall is a member of Johnstown Temple, No. 170, T. of H., and was worthy Chief the first two terms, commencing Jan. 22, 1878; was re-elected in April, 1878; he is also a member of the Grand Temple of Wisconsin.

Hist. Rock Co. 1879 P. 810





*Hall Homestead (No. 214) about 1830.  
Gregory Hall, born 1835 - died 1907,  
came from Monroe County, New York.*



*The old house was removed and used as a grainery.  
A new house took its place in 1884. U. S. Lee Hall,  
Wm. J. "Wid" Hall who ran the store, Mrs. G. D.  
Hall, and Gregory Hall. The picture was taken in  
1899.*



*Ike Hall*

IN MEMORY OF

I. G. Hall  
by his family at

**I. G. Hall, Inc.**

ALLIS CHALMERS FARM MACHINERY

Telephone 883-2961

Route One

Janesville, Wisconsin



## HANTHORN

*Another Sheriff from Johnstown was George Hanthorn.*

### GEORGE HANTHORN

George Hanthorn, ex-Sheriff of Rock County and a retired farmer, was born in Dilworthstown, Delaware Co., Pa., May 26, 1832, and is the son of Thomas and Louisa (Coburn) Hanthorn. His father was born in the same town, on the 1st day of March, 1807, and was a farmer by occupation. The family moved to Chester County soon after George's birth and his mother now resides at West Chester. She was born August 11, 1810, on the same farm as her husband, and was of English extraction. Thomas Hanthorn came of Irish descent and died in 1850.

George was reared on his father's farm until fifteen years of age, when he engaged as apprentice to the stone mason's trade, and worked at that occupation until 1857, when he removed to Rock County, Wis., and engaged in farming in Johnstown Township. On the 17th day of September, 1862, he was united in marriage at Allen's Grove, Walworth Co., Wis., with Miss Rebecca A. Vandenberg, a daughter of William and May A. (Leavenworth) Vandenberg. Mrs. Hanthorn was born in the town of Schodack, Rensselaer Co., N. Y., and is of Holland and English descent. Her father was descended from a family of the early Holland Colonists who settled in the Mohawk Valley, and her mother's ancestors were among the English Colonists who settled in New England. Her parents located in the town of Bradford, Rock Co., in 1846, and were among the early settlers of that place. Mr. and Mrs. Hanthorn have two children, sons: Oscar Duane, the elder, was born March 7, 1864, married Miss Minnie Henkie, daughter of Frank Henkie, and resides on his father's farm of 160 acres in Johnstown Township; Orlando Van, the younger, was born May 8, 1869, married Miss Nellie Inmann, daughter of Edward Inmann, and resides in Janesville.

Mr. Hanthorn continued farming until the fall of 1884, when, having been elected Sheriff of Rock County, he quit the farm and removed to Janesville, and entered upon the duties of his office on the first Monday of January, 1885. At the close of his term he continued his residence at Janesville, leaving his farm in the care of his eldest son. He is a Republican in politics, and has held various public offices in addition to that of Sheriff. While a resident of Johnstown he served four years as Chairman of the Township Board of Supervisors and also represented his township in the County Board of Supervisors. He is the present Alderman from the Second Ward and is also Coroner of Rock County. While residents of Johnstown, Mr. and Mrs. Hanthorn were members of the Emerald Grove Congregational Church, a connection which they still continue. In the Spring of 1888 he joined Mr. Shurtleff in the creamery business in this city, under the firm name of Shurtleff & Hanthorn.

From, "PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL ALBUM  
OF ROCK CO." p. 829

## ELDRED — HAIGHT — ZANTON

*Frederick Starr Eldred*

Frederick Starr Eldred, a son of Zenas and Lucena Carter Eldred, was born in Winfield, Herkimer County, N.Y. on April 17, 1821. He was educated there and also at Hamilton Academy in Madison Co., N.Y. He worked as a farm laborer for his father until he was twenty-one and then departed for Rock County with \$200.00 given to him by his father. He entered a quarter-section of government land and preempted another quarter-section adjoining and commenced the establishment of a home. Frederick Eldred returned to Winfield to marry Sarah Wetmore on June 18, 1843. She was a daughter of Richard Wetmore of Winfield. The bridal couple returned to Johnstown to begin their new life. While at Johnstown Mr. Eldred held the office of Justice of the Peace and was engaged in stock raising and dairying on Rye Road, Johnstown. He was well known for the quality of the cheese produced on his farm, winning 1st premium at the Agricultural Society's fairs. He was one of the organizers and officers of the first Congregational Church. He moved to Janesville and operated a grocery store for more than twenty years. He was engaged in the lumber business in Janesville, the Janesville Cotton Mills, the Central Wisconsin Bank, later the First National; was an alderman in the Fourth Ward and served on the city council.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldred adopted a daughter whose little brother is buried in Montello, Wisconsin. Mr. Eldred provided the old Janesville Public Library with a stone memorial to this little boy which can yet be seen upon the right side of the facade of the building on Main Street, Janesville. This daughter married D. F. Sayre Jr., a prosperous farmer of Fulton, Rock County, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Eldred died in 1886. Mr. Eldred was married again in 1888 to Mrs. Fanny Hoyt of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mr. Eldred was asked to prepare the following essay for the March 6th, 1864 meeting of the Rock County Agricultural Society and Mechanics Institute.

### ESSAY ON DAIRY COWS

by F. S. Eldred, Esq.

Read before the Rock County Agricultural Society and Mechanics' Institute, March 6th, 1864.

"The horse has been thought to be the most useful animal to mankind; but in this progressive age of railroads and telegraphs, it must be admitted that the cow is the more worthy of our attention. She furnished us not only with the substantial comforts of life, but that without which our tables could be provided with but few delicacies.

"If there is any part of farming that comes nearer than another to the old adage of the boy's eating his cake and having it too, it is the keeping of a good cow. She not only gives us the elements of our rich cheese and our golden butter, without diminishing in value, but she is continually adding fertility to our soil, which should not be lightly valued by any



one who looks to the future prospects of our State as an agricultural district. If you admit that she possesses these qualities, how can be better spend a portion of our time, than by discussing the question how to improve the symmetry of her form, the quantity and quality of her milk, and the proper treatment by which it is turned to the best account?

"I have not been led to regard the frame of the cow of so much importance as the form of the udder, the size of the milk veins, and other external marks, such as the quality of the skin, hair, etc. I am of the opinion that some breeds of cattle are far better for milk than others, and that any breed may be improved in the milking qualities by a proper course of treatment.

"Probably there is no animal that has been so much improved in any one particular, by domestication, as the cow, in her capacity for giving milk. In a wild state her udder is small and shrinks into an insignificant compass when the duty of suckling is over. But when domesticated and kept for the sake of her milk -- and that is drawn from her by artificial means -- the milk -- secreting vessels enlarge, and the udder expands, so as to become a prominent feature in the animal. In this manner, by constant exercise, the capacity of the cow for giving milk has been permanently altered, and rendered more suitable to the demands which we are constantly making upon her. If we would still improve our cows as milkers, we must follow out what has thus been commenced. Failing to do this, in my opinion, many in this and other countries are failing to improve their otherwise choice breeds.

"It is thought by many of our importers of stock, and by some of our best stock growers, that in order to raise a good calf it is necessary to let it run with the cow through the summer, and perhaps, in the meantime, suckle it on another nights and mornings. Others adopt this course for the reason that it is less trouble to let the calf do its own milking rather than do it for them. Most of those with whom I have conversed on this part of stock raising, justify their course by saying, it is the way that nature designed, and that we must not attempt to improve the laws she has laid down for our guidance.

"If this natural course is the best to make large milkers, why is not the udder of the cow as large in her wild state as when domesticated? I might add, that if this course, which is thought to be indicated by nature, should be practiced upon with any breed of cattle, I care not how high their reputation as milkers, through a few succession generations, their standing as dairy cows would be exceedingly low. I have no objection to this course, so far as the calf is concerned; but I lay it down as almost an infallible rule, that it is ruinous to the cow as a milker.

"If butter and cheese are items worth the attention of the agriculturist, should not this part of stock growing receive more consideration at our hands? Some cows are better for yielding rich milk than others, and some give a large quantity, while it is poor in quality. The dairyman, then, must first consider whether he wants quantity or quality. In general, near large towns, where the demand for milk is great, the object of the dairyman naturally is to keep cows which will give a large quantity, without so much regard what sort it is. For those who go for this, and yet have some honest scruples left about resorting to the pump, the old-fashioned, large-

framed, big-boned Holderness would be best. But the manufacturer of butter and cheese wants quality and quantity both.

"As far as my own experience goes, I have found our native cows, as milkers, fully equal to the improved breeds; though some of the best milkers I have ever known, were a cross of a full blood short horn Durham with our best native cows. I think that our full bloods, especially the Durham, can be greatly improved as milkers by proper management, and in a few years they might be made to stand without a rival as cows for the pail.

"Among our native cows are many superior milkers, and many individual cases have been found which were equal in yield of milk and butter, to any registered in the herd books. For instance, the Cream-pot breed, built up by Col. Jacques, of Charlestown, Mass., whose calves were bespoken at \$100 each. The celebrated Oaks cow, of Danvers, that gave, on evidence satisfactory to the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, 484 lbs. of butter from the 5th of April to the 25th of September. And the wonderful prize cow, Kaatskill, property of Mr. Danielson, of Blithwood, N.Y., which received the prize of the New York State Agricultural Society, at Poughkeepsie, in 1854, on satisfactory evidence that she yielded, when kept on grass only, 38½ qts of milk per day; and that from the milk given by her in two days, 6½ lbs. of butter were made -- being at the rate of 22 ¾ lbs. per week. When such cases turn up, almost by chance, why may not a breed of superior milkers be established, and confidently relied upon, as it is known that like produces like?

"The way of turning milk to the best account must depend, in a great measure, upon the situation of its producer, as regards market convenience, and inconveniences at home, etc. If an individual is so situated that he can sell his milk for two cents a quart, as taken from the cow, he will find it more profitable than to manufacture it into butter or cheese, at the present prices, or as prices have ranged for the last ten years.

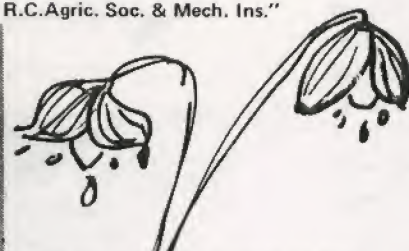
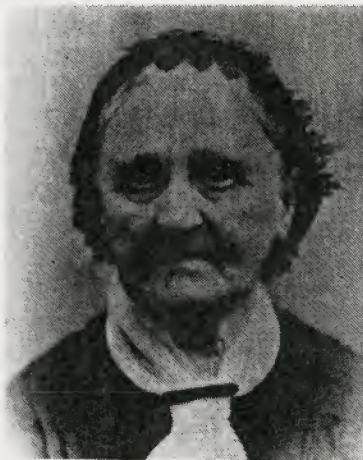
"Of the particular mode of manufacture of either butter or cheese, I do not intend to speak. It would take too much of your time, giving you little or no profit. Rules for the dairy should be very minute -- and then we need the school of experience, to become proficient in this branch as well as any other branches of agriculture. However, I do not wish to be understood that it is peculiarly difficult. It is not. With a little patience, a reasonable amount of judgment, and a good sprinkling of perseverance, you need not fear. I think that our agricultural communities have not given this branch of business the attention it demands. As a state, we do not make our own butter and cheese, (or cheese, at least); and as to the quality, that is not what it should be, most will admit. It would be well for us to look, talk and think more upon this matter. The importance of making good butter, that will keep for a long length of time, has been, I believe, entirely overlooked by us, as a Society; and I would inquire, whether it would not be well to offer a large premium for the best May or June butter?

"Brother farmers, I leave this subject -- having merely touched on its importance, and given a few general hints for your consideration, hoping that it may fall into more competent hands, and be thoroughly discussed, so that it may prove a lasting benefit to our Society; and through this

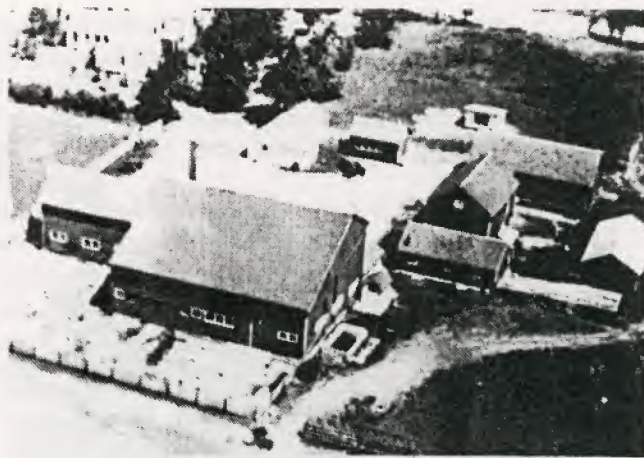
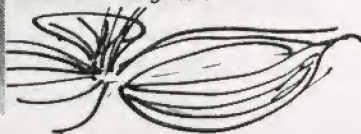


means our land be made to flow not only with milk and honey, but with butter and cheese of the richest quality. <sup>1</sup>

(1) p. 312 - "Hist. of R.C. & Trans. of R.C. Agric. Soc. & Mech. Ins."



Emaline Ambler, mother of Mrs. John Haight. She was born in New York and lived in the Haight house with her daughter.



Zanton Farm, Rye Road, (No. 251) presently operated by Jim Zanton. The large barn in the foreground was built by F. S. Eldred. Dairying was of interest to all the owners of this farm.



The Haight family. John Haight was born in New York in 1832 and came to Johnstown in 1850. He was married to a New York girl in 1853. He was District Clerk for six years, Side Supervisor for five years and Supervisor in Johnstown. He lived on the farm of F. S. Eldred where he also milked cows. Back row, left to right - Alice, Julia, Alfred. Front row - James, John; the little boy is William, who is leaning against his mother, Harriet; Sarah.

TELEPHONE RICHMOND, WIS.  
TURNER 3-2947

CLIFFORD ZANTON  
RYE ROAD  
AVALON, WISCONSIN

SALESMAN FOR H. E. GILBERT, REALTOR







*John Haight on his way to the creamery*



*With the advent of the motor, milk was hauled in these trucks*



*and now this truck picks up milk at the Zanton (Eldred Haight) Farmstead.*



*Johnstown Creamery - Scharine Rd. and C.T. "A".*





Volney Wood



Catherine Austin Wood,  
wife of Volney Wood

## VOLNEY WOOD

"Volney Wood, who resides on section 22, Johnstown Township, is a leading and enterprising farmer and is the owner of 228 acres of land situated on sections 22, 23 and 26. He was born in Pennsylvania, April 21, 1830 and is the youngest child of Silas and Olive (Kennedy) Wood, who were born in New York. When our subject was two years old, his parents removed to Ashtabula County, Ohio, where they spent the succeeding four years, and in 1836, became residents of La Porte County, Ind. His father there engaged in farming for several years, when he again removed with his family, settling in Rock County, Wis., in 1840. He once more turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, owning a farm in the town of Milton, where he made his home until his death, which occurred in February, 1854, at the age of Sixty-five years. His wife preceded him in her final rest, dying in 1849. They were people held in high esteem, and their children, six in number, all became respected men and women. Jasper, the eldest, who was born July 22, 1816, died in 1851; Royal born Sept. 7, 1818, has now retired from active life and is a resident of Janesville; Zelotes, born Oct. 25, 1820, is living in Ashtabula County, Ohio; Parmenas, born on the 4th day of September, 1823, died in 1853; Daniel M., born May 30, 1826, departed this life in 1877; and Volney, of this sketch, completed the family.

"Since 1840, our subject has been a resident of Rock County, and is numbered among the honored pioneers. At the time of his coming the prairies were uncultivated, but few settlements had been made, and the process of development had scarcely begun. Settling on a farm in Milton Township, he there made his home for twenty-nine years, when he removed to his present residence. He has followed the occupation of farming throughout his entire life, and everything about his place indicates the owner to be man of thrift and progressive ideas.

"In the month of August, 1849, Mr. Wood was united in



*Taken at the fair with a tent for a backdrop. From the top and left to right - Edgar Keith and Louisa Wood Keith, Edward Carter and Flora Wood Carter. Flora Wood Zuill and David F. Zuill.*

marriage with Miss Catherine L. Ausitn, daughter of John and Rebecca Austin. The early home of the Austin family was in the Empire State, but in 1845, they emigrated to the West and became pioneers of Rock County, Wis. By the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wood, six children have been born, and although some have left the parental roof the family circle has been unbroken by the hand of death. Louisa M., the eldest, who was born May 29, 1850, is the wife of E. P. Keith, a resident farmer of Kossuth County, Iowa, and to them have been born four children - Lynn, Harry, Flora May, and Charlie; Eveline, who was born on the 15th day of February, 1852, is living at home; Frances E., born April 9, 1854, became the wife of Dr. E. L. Cary, a practicing physician of Whitewater, Wis., and to them has been born a daughter, Florence Lillian, who was born Nov. 6, 1882; Cora May, born Jan. 3, 1859, was united in marriage Nov. 12, 1885, with E. A. Carter, and in September, 1886, a son, Ralph, was born unto them; Flora A., born Sept. 29, 1860, was joined in wedlock Jan. 26, 1888, with David Zuill, who is engaged in farming in Johnstown Township; Grant V., the youngest, born July 6, 1865, is a resident farmer of Bradford Township, and on the 23rd day of July, 1886, married Miss Eva Welch, daughter of Edwin F. Welch, of this county. They also have one child, Howard Edwin.

"Mr. Wood has taken an active interest in the affairs of Rock County, and has served his fellow citizens in various township offices. While residing in the town of Milton, he held the position of Supervisor, and since his removal to Johnstown Township has served as Assessor for six years, having filled that office for the past four years. He has also served on the School Board for several years, and for five years was Secretary for the Johnstown Insurance Company.

(1) "Rock County Album"



## JAMES MILLS

James Mills, B. S., M. D., a prominent physician of Janesville, is a native of Rock County, and was born on the 25th day of July, 1852. His father, Peter Mills, one of Rock County's early settlers, was born in Perthshire, Scotland, Feb. 7, 1818. He was reared in his native land, and there learned the trade of a miller. On the 7th day of November, 1841, he was united in marriage with Miss Jane Peacock, and in 1849 they emigrated to America, located on Rock Prairie in Rock County, where Mr. Mills engaged in farming. Their children were four in number: Mary, the eldest, born May 3rd, 1843, is the wife of Alexander McGregor; Peter, born Jan. 18, 1846, enlisted in the late war as a member of the 13th Wisconsin regiment, and died at Fort Henry, Tenn., Dec. 16, 1862; Margaret, born Nov. 27, 1850, died in infancy. The Doctor was the youngest of the family, and was but four days old when his father died. Mr. Mills' death occurred on his farm in Rock Prairie, July 29, 1852, from cholera, at the early age of thirty-four years. Though he died thus early in life he was naturally of a strong constitution, possessing great strength and powers of endurance. He was well educated, energetic, industrious and highly esteemed.

After the death of her husband the mother of our subject, by hard work and careful management, carried on the farm and provided for her family. In 1854 she became the wife of John Henry. They now reside on the old homestead, and one child has been born to them. Margaret Jane, born March 10, 1863, who still lives with her parents.

The subject of our sketch was reared to manhood on the old homestead in Johnstown. He worked on the farm with unceasing industry, the only relaxation being his attendance at the district school during the winter months. In 1869 he entered Milton College, where he attended several winter terms. His ambition did not slumber, and finding himself partly dependent upon his own energies to secure an education, he began farming for himself during the summer and attending the college during the winter. In 1875 he taught school in the old school house where he first attended. He still pursued his college course, and for several terms was one of the assistant teachers. In 1879 he graduated. Desiring to make the practice of medicine his profession, he, with untiring zeal and well-directed ambition, entered the office of Dr. Henry Palmer as a student, and a year later entered the Chicago Medical College, from which he graduated with honors in 1883.

While in Europe Dr. Mills wrote a series of letters concerning cities, places and things of those countries. These articles were published in the Janesville Gazette and were widely read and universally praised. In 1885, prior to his leaving Scotland, he became a member of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society, a long established and famous organization. He is also a member of the State Medical Society and Knights of Pythias.

In the month of August, Dr. Mills returned from the old countries, and at once began the practice of his profession at Janesville, where he has since resided. Both as physician and surgeon he has attained an enviable reputation, such as many an older practitioner might well be proud of, his practices being chiefly confined to the best classes of people in both city and country. He is a thorough scholar and a true gentleman, and has the confidence and respect of the community. Everything he undertakes bears the unmistakable impress of energy and sound judgment.

Feb. 13, 1888, the Rock County Caledonian Society was organized and the Doctor was chosen President, which office he still holds.

May 12, 1886, he led to the marriage altar Miss Emma F. Chamberlain, only daughter of James Chamberlain, of La-Prairie. Mrs. Mills is also a graduate of Milton College, class of 1878. On April 16, 1889, was born to them a son, Wallace C. Mills. Dr. Mills has just erected a handsome residence on E. Milwaukee Street, which home is an ornament to the city.

Since their residence in Janesville they have become members of the Presbyterian Church of that place. They enjoy an extensive acquaintance, being greatly esteemed by all who know them, and rank high in the social world.

## LETTER FROM MRS. PETER MILLS

From a letter written by Mrs. Peter Mills to her late husband's mother in Perthshire, Scotland, Feb. 8, 1853, we learn more of the pastor. Her husband, Peter Mills, had died the previous July, 1852. "----- I am sorry to let you know that we have lost our doctor. He died about two months ago. He took a fever and died. He was the one who came to Peter that morning. We have also lost our minister, Mr. Lane (or Lamb). He died about one month ago. He went to his bed in his usual way at night and was found lying dead in his bed the next morning. He had been complaining for some time back but he was always able to preach. We are meeting with great losses here but I hope our great loss is their



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great gain. They were both young men, about twenty-seven years of age. They did a great deal, both of them, for Peter that day he died. I was at Mr. Lane's funeral. It was the largest funeral I ever saw. The road was ahead with wagons for about a mile along. There were from two to three hundred people there and most of them all Scotch people. I may say we are now sheep without a shepherd. He was the best minister that I ever heard." This part of the letter is being shared with us by Mrs. Jean Hadden Ward, a grand-daughter of Mrs. Peter Mills, who later married John Henry.

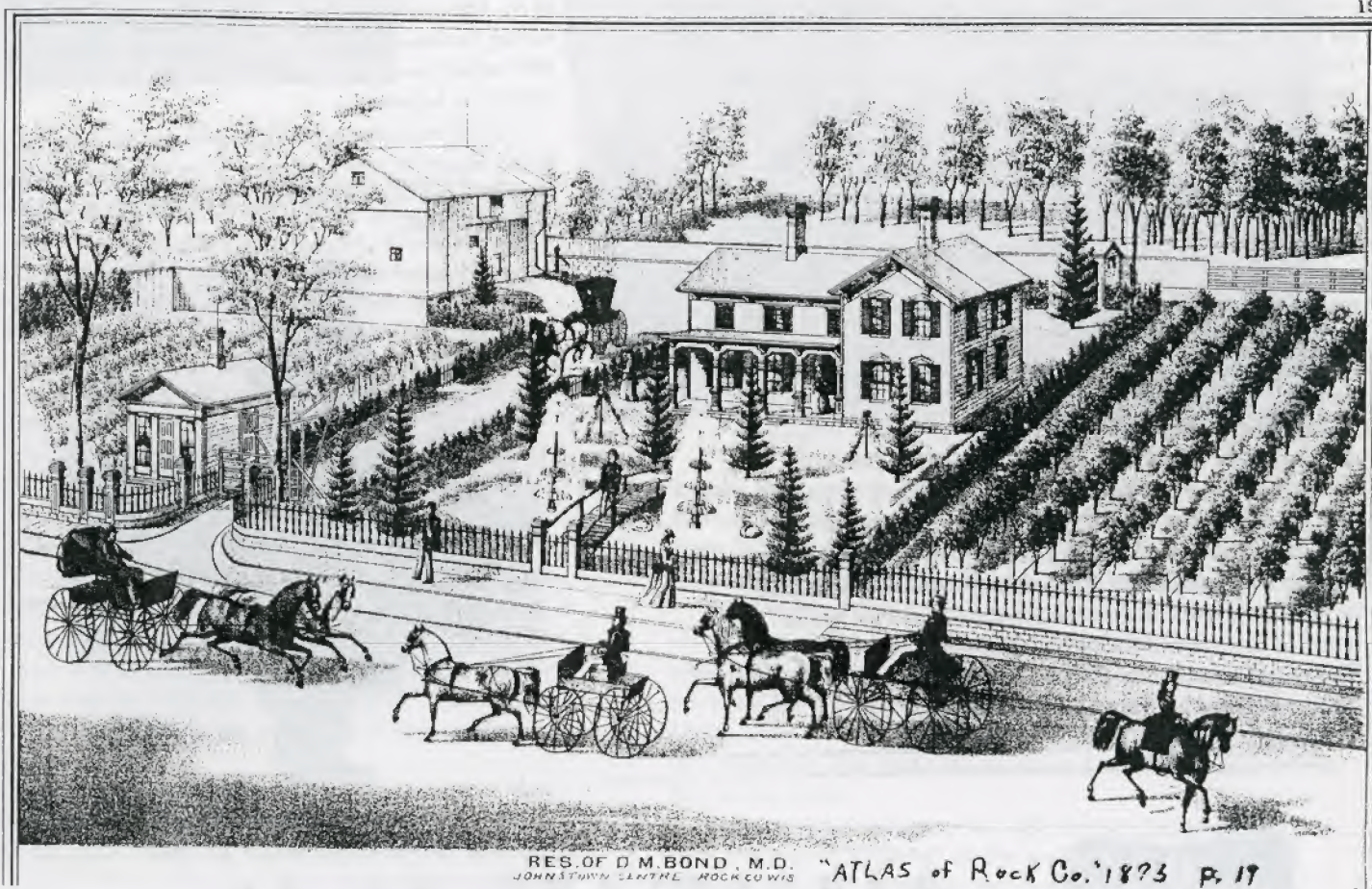
*Mrs. George Tallman, granddaughter of Mrs. Peter Mills was instrumental in prevailing upon her husband to give the Tallman homestead to the city of Janesville. The homestead was formerly opened to the public on June 23, 1951.*



Picture courtesy of The Rock County Historical Society.

## DOCTORS

19



So many doctors lived at the home of Dr. Bond that the house has acquired the cognomen of 'Doctor's house.' Johnstown was the hometown of many doctors and sent many out to practice elsewhere.

There were two Doctors in the Beldin Hotel in the 1850's, Dr. Hart and Dr. Smith.

In 1879 we had four physicians here in Johnstown. John B. Fleming, (first doctor at the Rock County Poor Farm and Alms House), Daniel C. Babcock, Lewis C. Bicknell and Daniel M. Bond.

Dr. Bond was born in West Virginia, graduated from the University of Virginia, studied medicine at Chicago Medical



College and came to Johnstown about 1853. He married Mary J. Swisher, daughter of Isaac Swisher of Virginia. They had three children, Florence Frank Lewis, and Lilian. Frank Lewis also became a doctor. He married Carrie Jacobs and died soon afterwards. Carrie Jacobs Bond supported herself and her son with her earnings from the songs she wrote: "I Love You Truly", "A Perfect Day", "Just A Wearying For You".

The terraces in the front yard of the Doctor's house were removed in 1968 by the present owners of the home, the Wm. Slowey family. The small building at the front was the doctor's office. It was later removed and used as a garage at the home of James Arnold.

Dr. Fern Rice, Dr. Ray Rice, and Dr. A. L. Blunt, are from the Plainview school district of Johnston.

**DR. ARTHUR L. BLUNT** was born in Johnstown, December 4, 1854. He attended rural schools in Johnstown township; and when he was 18, he attended a course for one term at Whitewater. He then taught in District No. 1 in Johnstown, and in 1873 he returned to Whitewater to study for two years. In the spring of 1876, he went to Nebraska for one year, then to Huron, South Dakota for two years, and then to Pierre, South Dakota. In 1883 Dr. Blunt returned to Rock County and sold real estate. Later he went to Chicago to study medicine under Dr. Hart. After one year he entered Bennett Medical College, where he studied for three years. On March 20, 1888, he was graduated valedictorian of his class. He also was graduated in ophthalmology. For one year he practiced medicine in Chicago; and on November 15, 1888, he came to Milton to practice. An 1889 biographical album states that, "His office was fitted up with all the modern appliances, including an elegant set of surgical tools and operating chairs. Since Dr. Blunt became a resident of Milton, he has cured a case of spinal irritation, the lady having previous to that time been unable to walk without a crutch for a year. He has also healed several chronic cases, and is rapidly gaining prominence in his profession." <sup>1</sup> Dr. Blunt later returned to Chicago to practice.

Dr. Blunt's parents were Francis and Delilah A. (Cheney) Blunt, both of whom were natives of New York. Francis and Delilah had eight children: Albert, Arthur L., Florence Ella, Marion, Asher, Ida M., Seward, and Seymour. For 32 years they lived where Herman Scharine lives today. While on this farm, Seward was engaged in farming with his father. In 1902 they sold the farm to Charles A. Scharine, grandfather of Charles F. Scharine, moving to another farm near Whitewater on Highway 59, which Seymour operated for some time. Florence Ella, who was known as Ella, was edu-

cated at the Whitewater Normal. She taught at Plainview school in 1876 and 1881.

In October, 1888, Dr. Arthur L. Blunt married Miss Alice Struby, a native of Louisville, Kentucky.

**1 PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL ALBUM OF ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN**, Chicago: Acme Publishing Co., 1889, Copyrighted by Chapman Bros., 1885.

#### *DR. WILLIAM ROCKWELL*

Dr. Wm. Rockwell was born in Augusta Center, Oneida Co. N.Y., March 30, 1829, son of Thomas and Lucy Rockwell. He came to Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin in 1850, returned to New York for two years and then came back to Fort Atkinson where he studied medicine under Dr. H. N. Gregory. He graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1858, practiced with Dr. Head at Albion, Wis., until 1860 when he came to Johnstown. He lived in the Andrew Peterson house next to the blacksmith shop with his office in the left front room. There was a walkway to this room, now gone, across the yard. Later he moved to the Doctor Bond's house in the Center. His wife, the former Mary Lyman studied medicine after her marriage and became one of the first woman doctors in the country. They have one son, Rollie, born Feb. 11, 1876. The doctor enlisted in the United States Service as Acting Assistant Surgeon, and remained in the service until 1866 when he was honorably discharged and resumed his practice in Johnstown.

A little boy born in the Pember house, now the home of Stuart Shadel Jr. was often seen at Dr. Rockwell's home. This little boy always wanted to be a doctor. His name was J. Frank Pember.



*Dr. Rockwell at the Crumb place*



**BADGERLAND CO-OP**

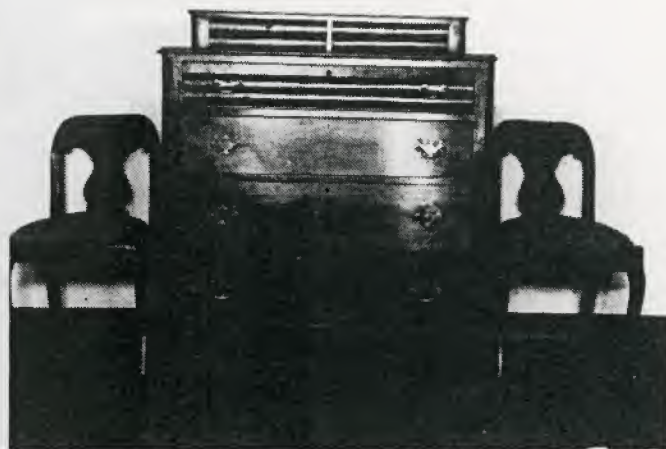
**624 MILWAUKEE ST. • WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN 53190**

A SIGN OF QUALITY . . .  
 . . . A PLEDGE OF SERVICE





Dr. Dyke also lived in the Andrew Peterson house for a time. Dr. Rockwell received \$1.00 to deliver a baby. By the time Dr. Dyke was in practice, doctors were receiving \$25.00 to deliver a baby.



A chest from the home of Dr. Frank Bond and Carrie Jacobs Bond. This piece of furniture can be seen in the home of Kenneth Newton, Johnstown.

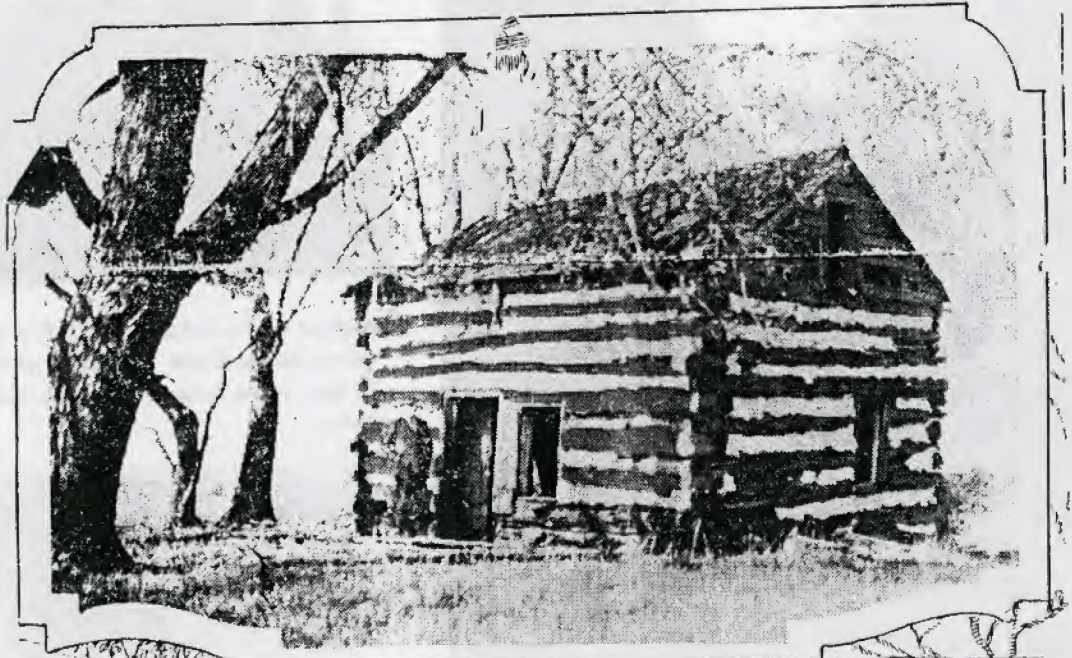


Dr. Cary married one of the daughters of Volney Wood, Ella Wood. His office was in Whitewater and he served the outlying area. The child is their daughter, Florence Cary Reed.

No.	<b>Wisconsin State Board of Health</b> MADISON	
This is to Certify, That <u>C. E. Dyke</u> of <u>Milton</u> } Health Officer or } for <u>Johnstown</u> Health Commissioner		
was in attendance at the session of a state conference of health officers and health commissioners held at <u>Madison, Wis., July 16 &amp; 17, 1914</u> and as a delegate to said conference is entitled to receive his actual necessary expenses thereby incurred, as provided by Chapter 135, Laws of 1913.		
Attach this certification to the sworn itemized statement of expenses incurred, to be paid by the city or incorporated village or township of which you are health officer or health commissioner.		<u>W. H. Harper</u> State Health Officer



# Scots Converted Saw



*Above: The type of log house which pioneers built at Rock Prairie. Above at right: A modern home on Rock Prairie with every comfort and convenience. Home of W. B. Austin, whose father was one of the first settlers.*

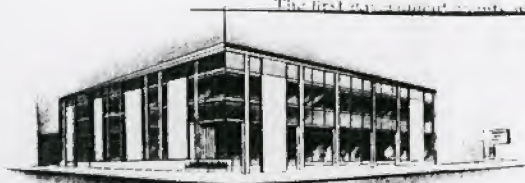


*Above at right: A modern home on Rock Prairie with every comfort and convenience. Home of W. B. Austin, whose father was one of the first settlers.*

*In circle: The attractive parsonage furnished for the pastor of the United Presbyterian church in the Scottish settlement at Rock Prairie.*



**T**RAVELLERS on the old Indian trail which led from Solomon Juneau's trading post at Milwaukee to the Winnebago village at the mouth of the Turtle on the Rock river always passed swiftly, the 15-mile swamp they encountered on the way. A hidden lurked in its depths. The first map of the route showed



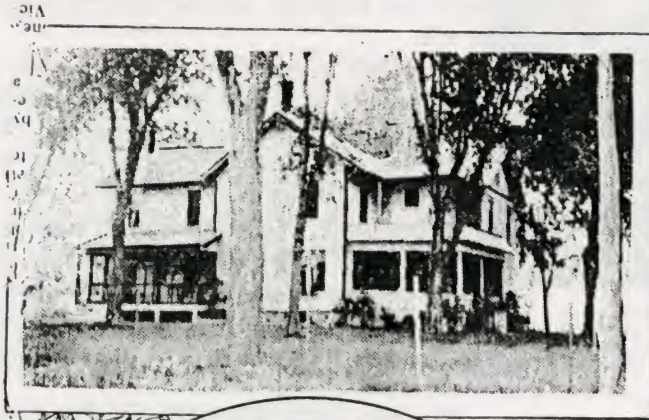
ESTABLISHED 1912

**Rock County Savings & Trust Co.**  
Janesville, Wisconsin

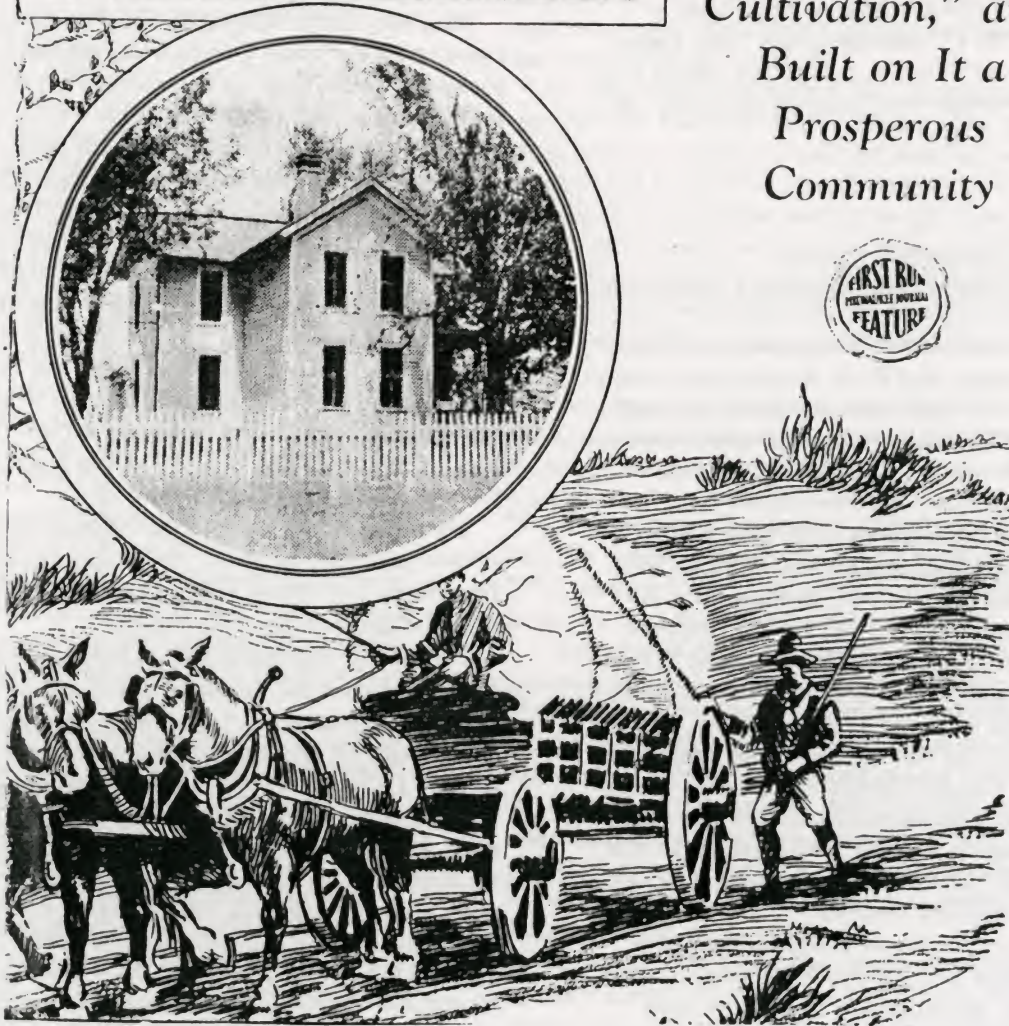
53546



# amp Into a Garden



Immigrants of 75  
Years Ago to  
Rock Prairie Ig-  
nored Government  
Report That It  
Was "Not Fit for  
Cultivation," and  
Built on It a  
Prosperous  
Community





## THE SCOTCH



### THE SCOTCH

*"I am thoroughly convinced that the emigration will soon be general in this country. Two hundred and fifty emigrants failed the other day from Fort George, and three hundred and eight of the McDonalds of Glengary, and the neighbouring districts, from Fort William. No less than eight or ten vessels are hired this season to carry off emigrants. Eight hundred and forty people failed from the island of Lewes in July. Alarmed with this, Lord F---, their master, came down from London about five weeks ago, to treat with the remainder of his tenants. What are the terms they asked of him, think you?"*

*'The land at the old rents; the augmentation paid for three years back to be refunded, and his factor to be immediately dismissed.' I have not yet learned whether he has agreed to these terms, but he must soon, or his lands will be left an uninhabited waste."*

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Strathpey, in Scotland, dated Sept. 18, 1773 and printed in "The Ladies Magazine" for January 1773 Vol. 4, p. 556. The volume was found among the possessions of the John McLay family of Johnstown.

### JAMES MENZIES STORY

As told by his daughter, Helen Menzies Sutherland June, 1949

John, my grandfather, was born in Glengoulandie, a lovely 400 year house in the country near Perth. Menzies were living there when I visited it in 1950. When he married Helen Douglas he moved to Pitlochry where Helen died at the birth of twins. They then moved to Perth where they lived until they came to Wisconsin.

The pictures above the mantel in the house on the home farm are of James, Grandpa John, and his second wife, Catherine. In July of 1844, John Menzies and Catherine, his second wife, brought James, then 14 years of age, and the twin girls, age 10, Helen, (Mrs. Wm. Menzies) and Christina (Mrs. Robert Barlass) to the United States. They moved to Perth, Scotland, after his first wife (mother of the above children) died. The reason they came to America was that there were land speculators in the Midwest who had pamphlets printed telling of the wonderful, easy life in Wisconsin. This was so attractive that it was the reason for the great immigration of the Scotch people to Wisconsin. Land speculators sold the land for approximately \$1.00 per acre. At that time much land was free.

The Menzies family went by wagon across Scotland and brought all their belongings with them (plow, plunder box and all their precious things). When they got on the boat, their friends were standing on the wharf and had music which started up, a song called "Bundle and Go" which was popular at the time, and everybody was weeping as the sailing boat started down the Firth of Clyde.

They cooked their food over a fire on the deck. Each had for food a huge box of oatmeal. They were so long on the

ocean they did their washing on the boat. One incident was most of the women were brought up to mind their husband's and do the work. One woman would just sit on the deck and rock. Her husband's shirt got so dirty. To shame her before the rest, he said that he would wash his shirt. She, instead of getting up and washing it, said she wished he would wash one for her too!

One night a terrible storm came up and blew then 600 miles back. They had to throw a lot of things overboard, all the beautiful things they had brought. The case of the Menzies' grandfather clock was thrown over but they saved the works.

They came to New York and went on a boat up the Hudson to the Erie Canal, where they went on tow boats. The children were so tired of boats that they walked most of the way across New York State because the horses that towed the boat went slow enough so the children could run behind them. All their belongings were then loaded on a lake boat and they went through the Great Lakes to Milwaukee.

When they got to Milwaukee, it was a miserable little town, a port where the wheat from here was shipped east. There was no railroad there. They put their women in a boarding house and the men walked around Milwaukee County looking for a place that looked like the pamphlets had stated. They were very discouraged. It was unbroken land and rocky. Every day they would go out in a different direction. They were so discouraged with this country that they decided they would go back to Scotland. They went down to the wharf to see if they could get a boat back. While standing around, they heard a man speaking Scotch. They went up to him and told him they wanted to go back and where could they buy tickets. This man said that if they would go out with him, he would show them the Garden of Eden, where he had come from. This was Andrew Barlass. They asked him how and he said they could hire the wagons that the wheat had come in on.

The next morning they started out on these wagons with all their belongings on them. They stopped overnight at East Troy. There they stayed at a wonderful place where there was good ham and eggs in the tavern.

Toward night they reached Rock Prairie. They were happy because it looked like Scotland. About at the church, the axle came off the wagon. Catherine Menzies said to Old Mrs. Beat, "Come on awa' over beside the fence and let's us just lie down and dee!" They fixed the wagon and spent the first night at the Mansur farm where there was a barn and a cabin. It was harvest time and they had fresh straw. They could sleep on the floor of the barn and they would sell them straw to put in their ticks. They filled the ticks and built a fire in the yard and hung the iron kettle over the fire and made a big pot of oatmeal. Each had a little cup that they dipped into the pot of oatmeal and sat around in a circle to eat. It was getting toward twilight and they were sitting around eating, and realized that these people were Yankees and were laughing at the immigrants. James didn't want them to see them sitting around eating like peasants, so he ran with the kettle to hide it in a corner. Grandfather John stomped over and got the kettle and said, "He who is ashamed of his



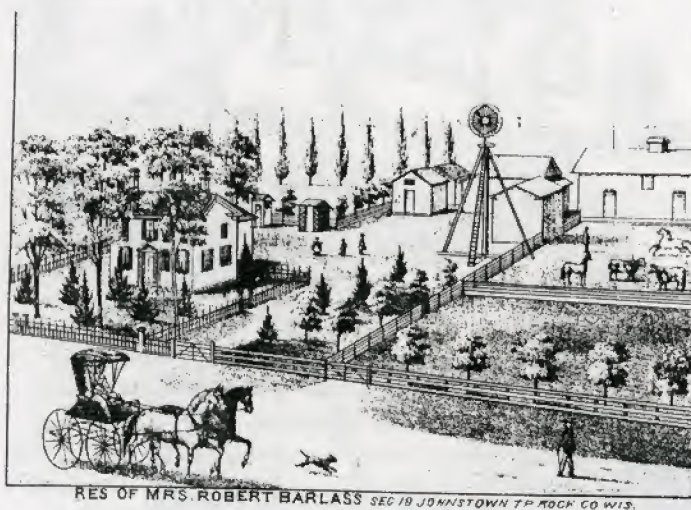
meat should na eat”.

They found this lovely country. Took took up 200 acres of land which is the Menzies farm at the spring across the road where they built a log house first. While living in that, they cut down the walnut trees to make the frame for this house. <sup>1</sup> They didn't take the bark off, but split the trees and used them. They got the bricks from Milwaukee on the return trips of the wheat wagons. They built just the two front rooms and two upstairs. The present bathroom was where the twins slept. The house was strictly colonial and had a hall down the center. Next the wing north was built. Next was the second floor to this wing. The wing going east had a dining room and lean-to for the kitchen. This was a story and a half. Later they made it higher and built on the kitchen. They built a big barn of nearly all black walnut which was put together with wooden pegs. This was where the machine shed now is, but now the upper part has been torn down and a machine shed built on the foundation. The way they marked their fields was with stones. Therefore there were always law suits going around about line fences.

The bottom used to drop out of the road between here and Janesville. It would take us two hours to get to Janesville behind the old Clydesdale horses.

John Menzies had bought 1000 acres when he came. When Christine was married he gave her the Robert Barlass farms on A & Rugar Road and when Helen was married he gave the farm now known as Gil-Bar and she and her husband William, built the house which is there now. To James, my father, he willed the home farm.

(1) The Menzies' farm is located on C. T. "A" in Harmony Twp.



RES OF MRS. ROBERT BARLASS SEC 19 JOHNSTOWN TP ROCK CO WIS.



**HOME OF THOMAS CLARK** – Thomas was born January 24, 1840, the sixth child of twelve, born to William and Isabelle Daniel Clark. He is a native of Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Before coming to this country in 1858, he farmed in the parish of Crudden, Scotland. He was 18 when he came to America and settled in the Town of Harmony, Rock County. He began by farming leased land until 1884, when he was able to purchase 260 acres of woods. He, in addition to paying careful attention to general farming, made a speciality of Clydesdale horses and Shorthorn cattle. He served the public as a member of the county board for many years and was chairman from 1905 to 1907. He died in 1921.

Thomas married Christina Hadden, one of eight children in the family of James and Ann Brown Hadden. Christina was born in Haddingtonshire, Scotland on June 25, 1845. She came to America with her parents in 1856 and spent the first ten years in the United States near Milton, Wisconsin. She married Thomas Nov. 15, 1886 and they then lived on a farm in Harmony until 1884 when the family moved to Johnstown Township. Forty years were spent in Johnstown before retiring to Milton (1924) for the last three years of her life.

The couple had five children: William H., J. Frank, Mrs. J. A. Paul, Miss Catherine, and one son, Thomas, who died in 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Clark are buried in the Johnstown Center Cemetery. This house is now, in 1970, the home of the Robert Venable family.

## THE FARMERS BANK

Milton Junction

Wis.

BANK AT HOME – TRADE AT HOME

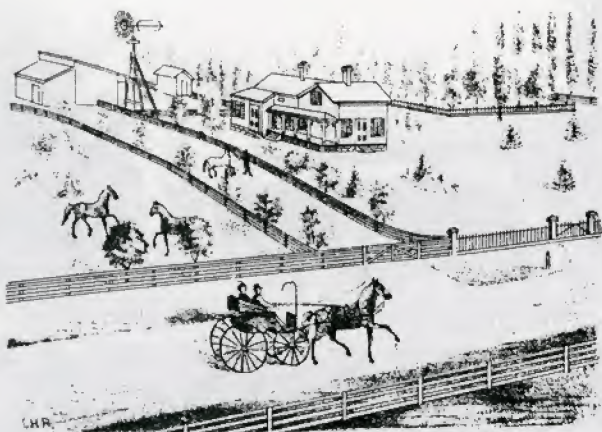


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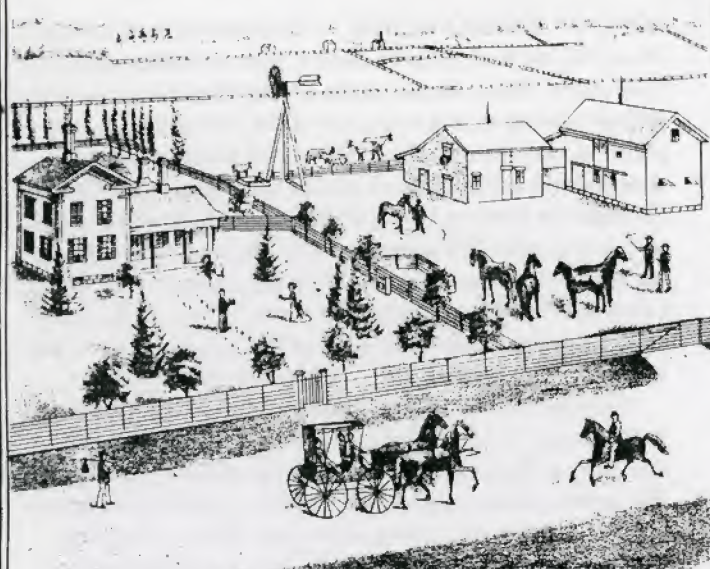




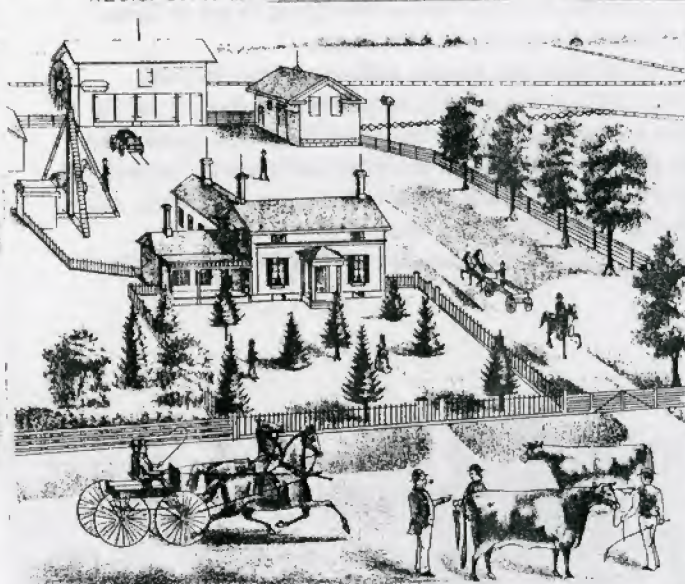
RES. OF WILLIAM HAMILTON  
SEC. 16 JOHNSTOWN TP. ROCK CO. WIS.



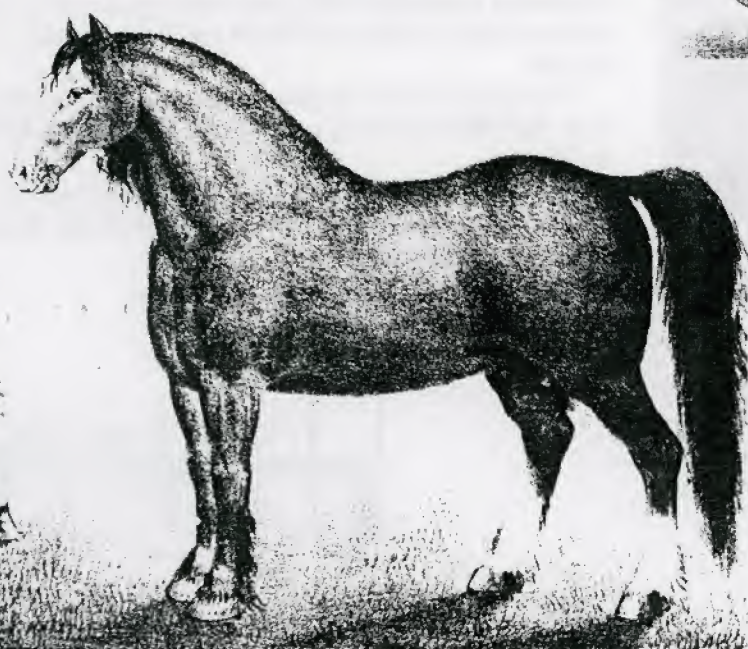
RES. OF JOHN McLAY, ESQ. SEC. 30 JOHNSTOWN TP. ROCK CO. WIS.



RES. OF DAVID McLAY  
SEC. 31 JOHNSTOWN CO. ROCK CO. WIS.



RES. OF JOHN ZUILL  
SEC. 24 JOHNSTOWN TP. ROCK CO. WIS.



CLYDESDALE HORSE, SIR WILLIAM WALLACE, AGE 3 YEARS, WEIGHT 1810 LBS.  
IMPORTED FROM SCOTLAND IN 1871 AND OWNED BY DAVID McLAY, BREEDER OF CLYDESDALE HORSES  
P.O. ADDRESS: KIRKPAUL DRIVE, ROCK CO. WIS. SEC. 31 JOHNSTOWN TP. ROCK CO. WIS.

John McLay and his wife Jane Zuill McLay came from Stirlingshire, Scotland in 1884 with his brother David. David married Miss More of Knowhead, Buchlyvie, Scotland. These two men began importing blood-ed horses and the sons of John McLay, David and James, expanded the business. David McLay had no children of his own but raised an orphaned boy, a son of Duncan and Agnes Gentile Graham. The mother died when the baby was six months old and the father, a few years later, moved to the state of Kansas where he met an untimely death by drowning. The boy took the name of McLay and is known as George McLay. George bought a farm of his own in Sec. 32, married Belle Scott, daughter of William and Christina Scott of LaPrairie Township, and had six children, Graham R.; Agnes; Grace C.; Ivan; Kirkland S.; and Arthur G.

Pictures from 1873 ATLAS of R. Co.





*Interior of the David McLay home. Photography was not the easy thing then that it is today. Few pictures of interiors are available. This picture, dated Dec. 1904, is the front hall and parlor of David's home. When this house burned, the records of the Rock Prairie United Presbyterian Church burned with it, for David was trustee of the church.*

### McLAY BROS.' CLYDESDALES

Twenty-eight prizes, including three championships, was the record made at the 1906 International Live Stock Exposition by the Clydesdale horses of McLay Bros., Janesville, Wis. This is certainly conclusive proof of the high quality of horses imported and bred by this reliable firm. Messrs. McLay Bros. are practical horsemen in all that the word implies. Their horses are handled on their Wisconsin farm in a natural way, having that abundance of exercise and natural methods of feeding so necessary to produce a sound and reliable animal. And back of the horses stand the men — thoroughly reliable in every way, guaranteeing in every way the animals they sell and always making that guaranty good. They can furnish a strictly high-class stallion at a reasonable price, and those contemplating buying a Clydesdal will make no mistake by inspecting the offering of this reliable Wisconsin firm. They have just issued a new catalogue, which is of great value to those interested in the breed. The pedigrees it contains are of the very richest breeding. Many of the animals have a well-known showyard record, while it is profusely illustrated with photographs of the correct Clydesdale type taken on the farm by a member of the firm. Look up their advertisement on page 2 to-day and send for a copy of the catalogue, mentioning the DROVER'S JOURNAL when you write.

## BRAVE GIRL WHO DESERVES PRAISE

Miss Hattie Kennedy the Heroine, of  
the McLay Fire Last  
Friday.

Miss Hattie Kennedy, an employee of the family of David McLay, proved herself the heroine of the hour at the fire last Friday night which destroyed the beautiful McLay residence near Johnstown. Miss Kennedy was sleeping downstairs with four of the McLay children, Helen, Marian, Christine and Isabelle. Florence McLay and Helen Barlass, a cousin, who were visiting for the night, were sleeping upstairs on the second floor, on which were the rooms of Mrs. Barlass and Mrs. John Manning of this city. Both Miss Kennedy and Mrs. Manning discovered the fire at the same time and Mrs. Manning after awakening Mrs. Barlass and the two young girls on the second floor, ran to a neighbor's to give the alarm. Miss Kennedy meanwhile took her four little charges to a place of safety and then returned to the second story to help Mrs. Barlass. Meanwhile the house was full of smoke and the flames were just eating their way through the stairway. Aiding Mrs. Barlass, who was blinded by the smoke, she succeeded in helping her out of the building; a second later the whole house was in flames. Had Miss Kennedy not gone to Mrs. Barlass' assistance she would have been burned to death, as the stairs gave way a few minutes after the rescue and there was no ladder that would have reached to her bed-room window. Miss Kennedy then mounted a horse and rode to the neighbors who had not been reached by telephone. One strange feature of the accident was the experience of Mrs. Manning, who recently had her palm read while in Boston, and a loss by fire was prophesied as coming within a short time. She lost everything she had with her at the McLay home.

## McLAY BROS. UP-TO-DATE Clydesdales

A few very choice young stallions, the kind with "two ends and a middle"; suitable for the very highest trade. Our stud far surpasses any other in the number of prizes won at the six International shows. Address,

McLAY BROS. Janesville, Wis.





*John Zuill*



*Elizabeth Purvis Zuill*



*Zuill farm, later the Frank Taylor farm.*

The Zuill and McLay families of Johnstown are related and came to Johnstown together.

John Zuill came to Wisconsin in 1845 and took 480 acres in Sections 13 and 24. He was born in Stirlingshire, Scotland and in 1818, married Elizabeth Purvis and had three children, William, John, and David F. John made a speciality of short-horn cattle and probably the most extensive breeder in Johnstown Township.<sup>1</sup>

William Zuill a brother of John's, was killed in 1860. He had been married and left two daughters, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Briggs.

A sister of Elizabeth Purvis Zuill (who was married to a man named Scott) died on the ship coming over from Scotland and her four children were added to the family of the John Zuills. These children were David, George, James, and Jennie Scott. Jennie Scott is the mother of Leslie Jones of Emerald Grove, Wisconsin. Jennie married J. W. Jones.

David Zuill, son of John and Elizabeth Purvis Zuill, married Flora Wood, daughter of Volney Wood and Catherine Austin Wood. David had two sons and two daughters. Flora, who married Leland Cushman; David Wm.- unmarried; John Fearnley Zuill, who married Leota Fay; and Francis Zuill, unmarried.

Francis Zuill's mother went to the school at Old Johnstown with her dearest friend Julia Haight. Julia died when she was about 30 years old of a tumor or cancer after an adominal operation. All of the Zuill, Scott, and Wood children attended Old Johnstown School.

Julia Haight and Flora Wood were taught, while at Old Johnstown, by Diet Goodhue. Teacher and pupil both lived in Whitewater in later years. Diet Goodhue came to Mother Zuill's door every day about 11 o'clock. She was always invited in and given whatever the kitchen could provide for that day; a piece of pie, cookies, or cake. These were placed in a

little tin pail which Diet brought with her. Grandmother Zuill and Grandmother Wood both protested, "She is sponging on you."

Mother Zuill always replied, "She is welcome to anything that I have to give her."

Frances Zuill walked to country school at Old Johnstown for a year. The family then moved to Whitewater and Frances entered kindergarten at the "Old Main" Whitewater College School.



*Wm. Zuill, son of John and Elizabeth Purvis Zuill, and wife, Joan McFarlane.*

(1) "Hist. Rock Co. 1879" p. 813





The following article is from the University of Wisconsin News Service of Madison, prepared in May of 1961.

### FRANCES ZUILL

-- A modern pre-school laboratory, a new home management house and a new home economics wing may show in brick and stone what Dean Frances Zuill's 22 years of home economics leadership have done for the University of Wisconsin.

But she takes more pride in something more personal -- the 120 graduates she sends out each year as teachers, dietitians, nursery school-kindergarten directors, workers, merchandisers, and, of course, homemakers.

The Federated Women's Club in her home town of Whitewater gets credit for arousing Dean Zuill's interest in this field.

Just half a century ago, when she was a high school junior, the club canvassed the student body for girls to take a home economics course after school hours and without credit. The course was taught in the fire department headquarters of city hall and "our wonderful teacher convinced us there was a good deal of sense to home economics."

Since her first class at Whitewater, Miss Zuill has studied at Stout Institute, Teacher's College-Columbia University and taught at Cornell University, the Universities of Washington and Iowa, and Johns Hopkins University.

She has supervised home economics education of junior and senior high schools, adult programs and lunch rooms in Baltimore, Md., and has headed departments at the State University of Iowa and at Wisconsin.

Miss Zuill had headed the work at the State University of Iowa for 15 years when she was offered the Wisconsin job.

Her own dean tipped the scale toward the Wisconsin move by trying to discourage her from it. He told her, "Think what you've accomplished here. You're too old to do the same thing at another institution." With that challenge, Miss Zuill decided it wasn't too late to try.

Two of the students Miss Zuill registered as freshmen and

guided to graduation at Iowa are now or soon will be deans at Big Ten Universities. Dr. Josephine Staab will succeed Miss Zuill on Sept. 1, and Dr. Louise Stedman is already a dean at the University of Minnesota.

Under Miss Zuill, the home economics program at Wisconsin has had its greatest increase in the graduate program. More than three times as many graduate students are enrolled now as when she came in 1939.

Of the 62 graduate students enrolled this year about half are working in nutrition; another large group is in education. Fourteen students are here from other countries, and nutrition is the field that attracted most of them.

When Miss Zuill fulfilled an International Cooperation Agency assignment to India in 1958, she had a chance to visit a few of the students who had studied under her. Her personal attention to foreign students' needs as included supplying clothes, money and a sympathetic ear.

Miss Zuill hasn't completed her contact with foreign students for on Sept. 15 she will be starting a two-year assignment in Pakistan as administrative adviser to the colleges of home economics in Karachi, Lahore and Dacca. This is part of a project sponsored by the Ford Foundation, Oklahoma State University and Ministry of Education in Pakistan.

Soon after Miss Zuill came to Wisconsin she influenced the graduate school to expand the funds for research especially in foods and nutrition. Many grants used in all areas of home economics and from numerous sources have passed across her desk since.

She has increased tremendously the participation in regional research projects. About six of her staff are always active in these cooperative projects supported by Experiment Station funds. Nutrition has been the strongest field of research, with projects varying from synthetic amino acids to diets for arctic climes. Last year one of her research staff went to Alaska, to help with field tests of such diets.

Miss Zuill's support of professional home economics organizations has been staunch and faithful. She has an almost unprecedented record of attendance at the annual meetings of the American Home Economics Association. She attended her first meeting in 1921 and has missed only three meetings since.

But she hasn't been only a "goer"; she has been a doer, too. She served the national organization as secretary from 1928 to 1931. The next two years she was national president, and during this period the first national meeting was held in Milwaukee.

Twenty-five years later she was instrumental in bringing the meeting back to Milwaukee on the occasion of the Association's 50th anniversary celebration.

In the state home economics association Miss Zuill has held many offices, including president. She has helped to initiate projects to support the national building fund and to offer scholarships to qualified students. Her leadership of the state organization was recognized by her own School of Home Economics staff in 1959 when they presented her with a life membership in the American Home Economics Association and the state association.

Other organizations she has been affiliated with are Omicron Nu, national home economics honorary; Phi Upsilon



Omicron, national professional organization; American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Academy of Political and Social Science of America.

Miss Zuill has written six books and contributed many professional articles to the journals. In 1931 she was co-author of her first book, "The Family's Food." This has since been revised, and she has added "Food and Family Living," "Family Living in Our Schools," "Home Economics in Genral Education at Secondary Level," "Home Economics in Higher Eudcation," and "Potentialities of Women in the Middle Years."

Miss Zuill has been accused of being an ardent feminist. At least, she has argued vigorously for equal pay for equal education and equal quality work and has championed numerous causes where she has felt that women were being discriminated against only because they are women.

In fact, she's against any type of discrimination. As supervisor of Home Economics Education for the Baltimore schools following her graduation from Columbia Unviersity, she called a faculty meeting of white teachers. When a Negro teacher received an invitation by mistake and attended the meeting, Mizz Zuill was criticized for refusing to ask her to leave. As of now Baltimore has integrated its school system so separate faculty meetings no longer exist.

Student problems have always aroused her sympathy and energies.

She has given support to the building of cooperative dormitories on the campus, where girls can save money by contributing a few hours of work each day. But she has opposed having such dormitories occupied only by home economics students. "How would they broaden their horizons that way?" she asks.

In 1948 Miss Zuill started the first annual Hospitality Day for high school students. Schools from 50 miles around Madison were invited, and 230 students came.

Each year since, home economics students have planned and conducted this day with Miss Zuill's guidance. Attendance now averages about 1,000, and southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois schools attend.

The student feeling about Miss Zuill has been expressed in many ways. When she taught at the North Dakota School of Science in Wahpeton, N.D., she spent a few days in a hospital and her Indian students brought dishpans of violets from the woods to show their love. Her Wisconsin students at a recent Agriculture campus banquet echoed that gift with special honor and a gift of appreciation to a beloved teacher.

## JOHN & DAVID MCLAY

John McLay was born in Stirlingshire, Scotland in 1819, the son of John and Janet McLay of Keirbrae, latterly Backside of Garden and Arngibbon. He came to Johnstown in 1844, and with the Zuill brothers, William and John, staked out land on Rock Prairie. These men had heard great tales about the lands around Sparta, Wisconsin and not wishing to miss anything good, made their way there. The long trip a-horseback was no deterrent to these eager land hunters.

When they arrived great was their chagrin to find out that the lands all about Sparta were SAND!

John acquired land in Section 30 and 7. He married Jane Zuill, daughter of Wm. and Mary Zuill, Feb. 23, 1854. John and Mary became the parents of four children, William, David, Mary, and James. David and James formed McLay Brothers and became nationally known as importers and breeders of Clydesdale horses and Short-horn cattle.

David married Catherine Helen Barlass, daughter of Robert and Christina Menzies Barlass, who also came from Scotland. Catherine attended the local schools and Milton College. She was married to David on March 25, 1887. "Maple Lawn" on County Trunk "A" (No. 301) became the home where Mrs. McLay presided as a gifted and gracious hostess. The family Christmas and Thanksgiving gatherings were held at Maple Lawn. David and Catherine became the parents of five daughters, Helen, Mrs. Howell H. Humphrey, Mrs. James P. Carr, Mrs. Walter S. Craig, and Mrs. Orvin H. Anderson.

James married Jean McFarlane, daughter of James McFarlane, Oct. 3, 1888. There were three daughters and two sons: Mary, Margaret, Catherine, John, and James. This family settled on County Trunk "MM" in section 31 (No. 313) James, the father, was educated in the local schools and at Milton College. He and his brother, David, collected a fine group of Clydesdale horses. On their farms, aggregating about 900 acres in Johnstown, they had thousands of dollars invested in blooded mares, stallions, and Short-horn cattle. In 1904, at the St. Louis World's Fair, the McLay farm swept the field with an exhibition of Clydesdales.

James's knowledge of Clydesdales caused a demand for his services as a judge during the fair season, both in the United States and Canada. He was a member of the Rock Prairie Church, superintendent of the Sunday school and noted for his interest in youth. When the idea of establishing a County Young Men's Christian Association originated, Mr. McLay was one of the first to see the advantages. He thrust great energy into the establishment of this organization and saw it spread throughout Rock County.



CENTURY FARM — Maple Lawn, located seven miles east of Janesville on County Trunk A, has been in the McLay family since 1846 when John McLay homesteaded it. The home is occupied by Helen McLay and operated by Alfred Barlass. Considerable renovating has been done to the buildings this summer by James Carr, whose wife, Christina McLay Carr, owns an adjoining 160 acres. Eighty more acres are owned by Florence Humphrey. The original home burned in 1904, and the





*Jean McFarlane McLay*

## *Women's Work*

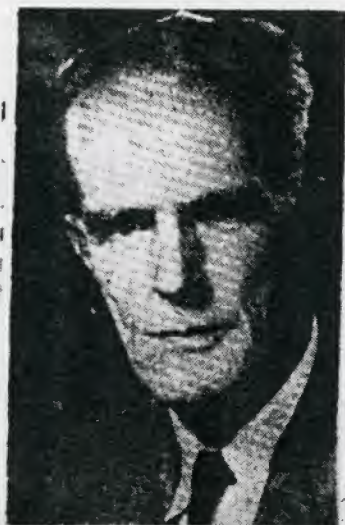


James McFarlane, a brother, came to America as a bachelor. When he returned to Scotland to get his intended, she wouldn't go to America. Jean McFarlane said, "Well, I'll go with ye, James." She sailed with James and later met and married James McLay of Arngibbon in Johnstown. Sec. 31



*Mr. and Mrs. James Mair lived in the tenant house at Arngibbon and worked for the McLays. Mrs. Mair is operating a hand push washing machine, helping Mrs. McLay with the wash.*



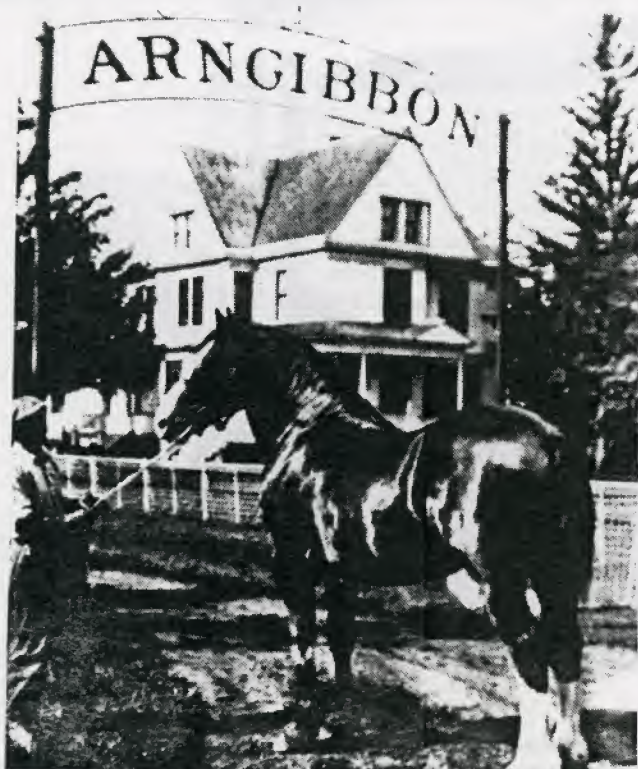


JOHN McLAY

John McLay, son of James and Jean McFarlane McLay, became the next member of the family name to operate the farm on County Trunk "MM". He was born Aug. 26, 1899 and attended Milton Academy and Beloit College. John was secretary-treasurer of the Wisconsin Shorthorn Breeders Association and past president of the Association. He was state representative on the National Meat Board, director of the Wehler school board, Johnstown. He was married to Erchal Creel in Ringling, Oklahoma, June 26, 1923. They have four sons, James Richard, John Stanley, Malcolm Creel, David Bruce; and a daughter, Jean McFarlane McLay.



"Line up for the Grand Championship at the Gregg County Fair 1905. "X" marks "Marion"



The McLay home on C. T. "MM", (No. 313).

## THE HORSE BUSINESS

(The following article is condensed from a taped interview between Peter Charles Galbraith and his nephew, Robert Reynolds of Madison. Peter Galbraith is talking. William Galbraith owned land in Section 36, Johnstown.)

My father Alexander Galbraith, was born in Sterling, Scotland around 1852 or 3. He was a farm boy, going to school until the age of 14, and then studied and got a job as clerk in Glasgow. He did very well, being a hard worker and quite a student. He went into the East India trade, exporting very large quantities of turkey red, dyed, cloth. At that time Glasgow was a thriving town, having a population of 3 or 4 hundred thousand. He married a Glasgow girl, Christina Mac-Nichol, came to America few years later, and settled in Janesville.

"Alexander Galbraith's father was also Alexander Gal-



braith, who first won the Clydesdale championship in Great Britain, just as the breed was becoming established. He showed his own horse in breeding, "Topsman", in the 1860's or 70's. He was always active in the horse business and the Galbraith Bros. were all of them experienced with horses before any of the development of horses in this country ever began" — — Robert Reynolds.

Clydesdale horses were in great demand when Alex Galbraith came to America. They were needed to improve the breeding stock and Alex Galbraith hoped to import Clydesdales. Three brothers joined him in the business; one in this country and two in Scotland, John and James. John never married. Jimmy had a family, but died at an early age. His family moved to England and were in the dairy business.

My father's brother, Archie, also came to the states, but he had asthma and couldn't live in this part of the country, and spent most of the rest of his life out in the state of Washington. He also was in the horse business, but not connected with my father, Alex.

After the panic of 1893, my father gave up importing for a number of years and during this time was pretty closely associated with Farmer's Institute work and that sort of thing. Galbraith Bros., was really active from 1883 to 1893. My father went back into importing individually and personally about 1898 and spent another ten years in Wisconsin. About 1902 - 3 - 4, he developed the Canadian branches of the business and the Illinois one.

My father had a branch of the business in Brandon Manitoba. He sold a great deal of breeding stock in Canada throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The horses were mostly Clydesdales. The Suffock horse was very popular with a certain group in this country for years but they died out because one or two of the larger dealers — breeders — retired from the business, sold their farms, and gave it up.

My father, Alex, also had an establishment in DeKalb, Ill. and one or two branches of the business in western Canada: Edmonton, Alberta. He was affiliated with the Alberta government as superintendent of fairs and that sort of thing.

The horse business began to slip in the Janesville area about 1915 and my father went into Canada, the time of the First World War, when horses were needed for pulling heavy combines and heavy road work. America was going into lighter equipment and more of it.

I never considered going into the horse business myself because the use of machinery was cutting into the business. After the First World War, the horse business began to go and after the Second World War it was all washed up.

Horses were usually sold on a note basis, possibly a third down and three years to pay the balance on the notes, figuring that the horse's earnings by stud fees would pretty well pay for the animal. The panic left my father with horses he couldn't sell, or give away, or finish. The notes were mostly no good because the farmer was broke, too. He didn't have the money to pay the notes and the earnings of the horse were very low. It was a bad deal all the way around for everybody.

My father dealt in stallions and didn't need a lot of acreage. The stables were in town and he bought all his feed. But



  
Peter  
Charles  
Galbraith

prior to that, when he was operating with the Bros., they had a farm of eighty acres just on the outskirts of Janesville and another farm of a hundred and sixty acres in Emerald Grove, eight miles away. But at that time they had mares, and they had more horses than later on.

My father didn't break the horses. He bought them as two year olds and four year olds: kept them a few months, put them in good condition to sell, and then they went to the breeders and to the stock men all over the country, especially the central states and the western central states. He dealt mostly with farmers, or groups of farmers, who'd get together to buy an especially good horse which cost a lot of money. The horses were bought in Scotland and were pretty well halter broken. They never got much beyond that. It wasn't necessary.

In one years time we would generally get 40 or 50 horses and a miscellaneous number of smaller and other lighter horses, all breeding stock. We usually kept 4 or 5 men: in the summer months, a little less, practically all from Scotland. You couldn't hire a Scotsman to work for you in this country but they would come over on the ship for the job and then if they decided to stay, that was their business. Many of them came over for a short stay and then went back.

I was assigned the job of handling about 12 head of Clydesdale stallions, shipped from Janesville to Brandon, Manitoba. The weather was down around ten or fifteen above zero. We shipped in a regular stock car. By the time we got to St. Paul, our line had frozen up and we had no heat from there on. We were shipping by express, that is, connected with a passenger train. We were supposed to get heat from the train but we didn't get it. One of the horses took a very bad cold and I had to be veterinary. He arrived all right, though and the horses sold well.

We carried medicine with us, largely for colds and we just poured it down his throat from a beer bottle. If they get sick on the ocean, you're in bad shape because a horse can't vomit and if he gets sick, he dies. Seasickness kills a horse. Once, Dr. Roberts, who became State Veterinarian for the State of Wisconsin had brought over a lot of horses, 15 or 20 stallions, and on the way over they were taken sick and every one of them died. That's a lot of money to die.



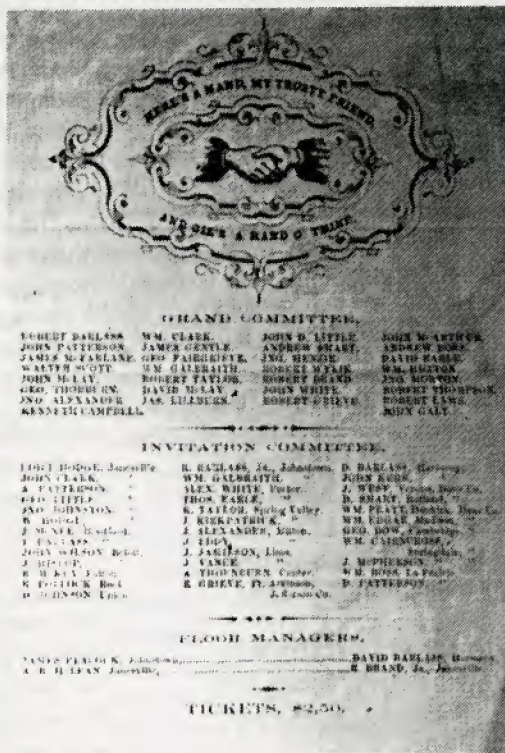
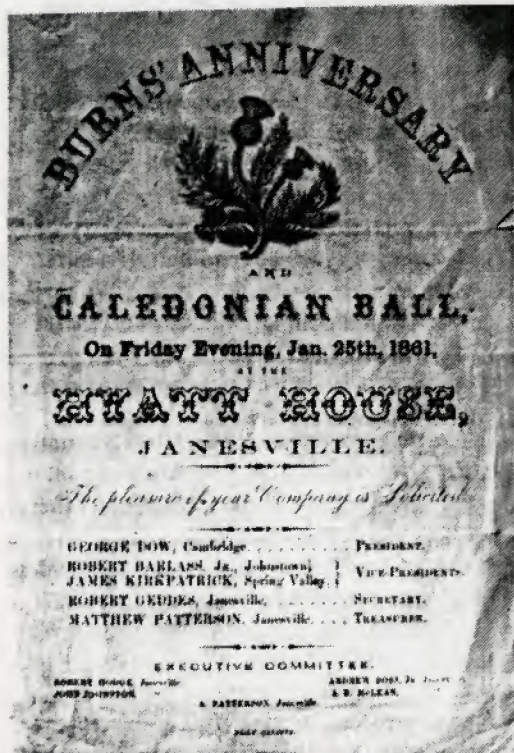
We got from horse to horse by climbing over their backs. That's the only way to go -- big broad backs on those Clydesdales. There're pretty tame anyway.

One time I had my suitcase out in the aisle and one horse could reach it by pawing. He got it under his feet and broke my bottle of hair tonic, stepped on it, tromped on it and ruined my extra suit that I was to wear back.

My father introduced the game of golf into the State of Wisconsin. He imported the clubs and balls and got his Janesville businessmen friends to try the game. They formed a little club at that time, the "Sinissippi Golf Club", Sinissippi being the Indian name for Rock River. It was a couple of miles from the business section of Janesville on the west side, the old Woodward farm. That's where the club is now only it's called the Janesville Country Club. They have the original nine holes and added another nine holes 25 years ago. Some of the first members of the club were Colin McLain, a Scotsman, who took it up naturally, on account of being Scotch, I suppose; also, Joe Baker, a druggist.



And There Were Dances



JB wanted to go to the Robert Burns dance so he thought he better practice staying up late. He stayed up late the night before the dance to practice the skill and then couldn't stay awake for the party.

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# The Irish

# 65

JOHN CLARK

"Have ye heard the elfin piper in the gloamin?"  
From the ring, beneath the fairy's ancient tree.  
Sound his call to Irish wanderers a-roamin?"  
"Sure—I've heard the elfin piper call to me."

I'm longin' for the homeland—for the cottage thatched and low.  
And the kindly Irish folk I call me own.  
And I would hear the skylark in the twilight afterglow.  
When the spring is on the hillsides of Tyrone.

I'd watch the stalwart mowers go a-swingin'  
'Round the fields of fragrant clover in the morn.  
I'd hearken to the song the thrush'd be singin'  
Whilst he swayed upon the branches of the thorn.

We'd sit before the fireplace; we would drink and dream and smoke.  
We'd talk the mellow Gaelic, the tongue my mother spoke.  
We'd watch the flickerin' shadows go dartin' to and fro.  
Till the glowing turf coals crumbled and ashes veiled their glow.

I'd hear the nightingale, while Irish roses  
Are bloomin' ivrywhere, in ould Tyrone.  
I waken—and the door of memory closes—  
I'm dreamin'—of ould days forever gone.





John Clark, the writer of the poem, lived just over the townline in Walworth County. His mother was from Johnstown. Johnstownites, however, had their own John Clark. He may not have written poetry, but, he was mighty good at telling stories.

Once upon a time, a couple of Johnstown's Irishmen chose a fine, fair day to hitch up their respective teams and take the wimmen and children into town. Loose boards were laid across the low sides of the heavy farm wagons for the family members to sit upon. The wimmen had butter and eggs to trade and these were carefully tucked into the bottom of the wagon box. The children were lifted upon the seats and the two men clucked to their teams. "Yup! Gee-up!"

When they got to town, the two wimmen popped into the grocery store, the kids popped in the door after them, and the Irishmen popped a cork or two in the saloon.

On the way home they got to racing. The horses gasped for more air. The board seats began to bounce and clatter. The wimmen dropped to their knees on the bottom of the wagon box and grabbed the children. The groceries started to shake and the dust was FLYIN' from the gravel road. "Get up there! Ya-a! Ya-a! Gee up! "HA-A-A!HA-A-A!"

They locked wheels! The splinters flew! The dust following behind caught up. When John Clark came by later on; the children were cryin', the wimmen were picking up the groceries, and the two Irishmen were raising a dust all their own in the middle of the road.

Almost everyone in Johnstown Township knew John Clark. If he wasn't yarning a tale about someone else, why, someone was yarning a tale about him. He was as reckless holding the lines of his team as he was years later, holding the wheel of his car.

One day, when he took his wife and kids for a ride in the buggy, she was obliged to cry out; "For my sake, and the children's sake, and for G —'s sake! Slow down, John!"



*Mr. and Mrs. James McGowan of Johnstown Center*

On the twenty-first of January, Mr. and Mrs. James McGowan of Johnstown Center, reached the sixtieth milestone in their journey as husband and wife. They are both climbing up towards ninety. Mr. McGowan being in his eighty-eighth year and Mrs. McGowan in her eighty-seventh. They were born in the same village, Ballyknock, Antrim county, Ireland, and were playmates. Their ancestors were Scotch and English. Mrs. McGowan, whose maiden name was Diana Robinson was born and bred in the English church and the Rev. Stephen Hunter, rector of the parish of Longhged, her pastor, officiated at her marriage, which was the first in a church which had just been dedicated. They came to the United States in October, 1850 and after living in New York city and Pittsburg, Pa., for almost two years, they came to Wisconsin and arrived at Johnstown Center July 27, 1852, where they have lived ever since. No one is now left in the village who was here when they came.

They had nine children, four of whom died in childhood, and one, Eliza C., in her twenty-first year. The others are living and are: Henry, who has been for over twenty years actively connected with the business life of Clear Lake la., Mary, who has taught for almost twenty years in the schools of Rock county, J. Wallace, who is a Presbyterian minister, Wilmingto church, Chicago; Anna, who has always remained at home. There are but two grandchildren and are the children of their son Henry. They are James of Chicago, and Mallie, who is now a junior of high rank in her class in the University of Iowa.

At the golden wedding a large company of friends, young as well as old, gathered at their home and made the afternoon and evening events long to be remembered. All the children were present. Many wished them ten more years of life together and now the ten years have come and gone and it seems that they may reach the nineties. Both have their senses and faculties remarkably preserved. In politics Mr. McGowan has always been an enthusiastic Republican, having united with it soon after its organization and his first vote was for John C. Fremont. In religion both Mr. and Mrs. McGowan have always had strong convictions and have been very regular and faithful in their church duties. Mr. McGowan has been for years an elder of the Rock Prairie United Presbyterian church, and in over forty years' connection with it has missed only three sacramental days.

*Mary McGowan*





Remembrances of Frances (Mrs. Stewart) Delany  
as told to Helen Wehler

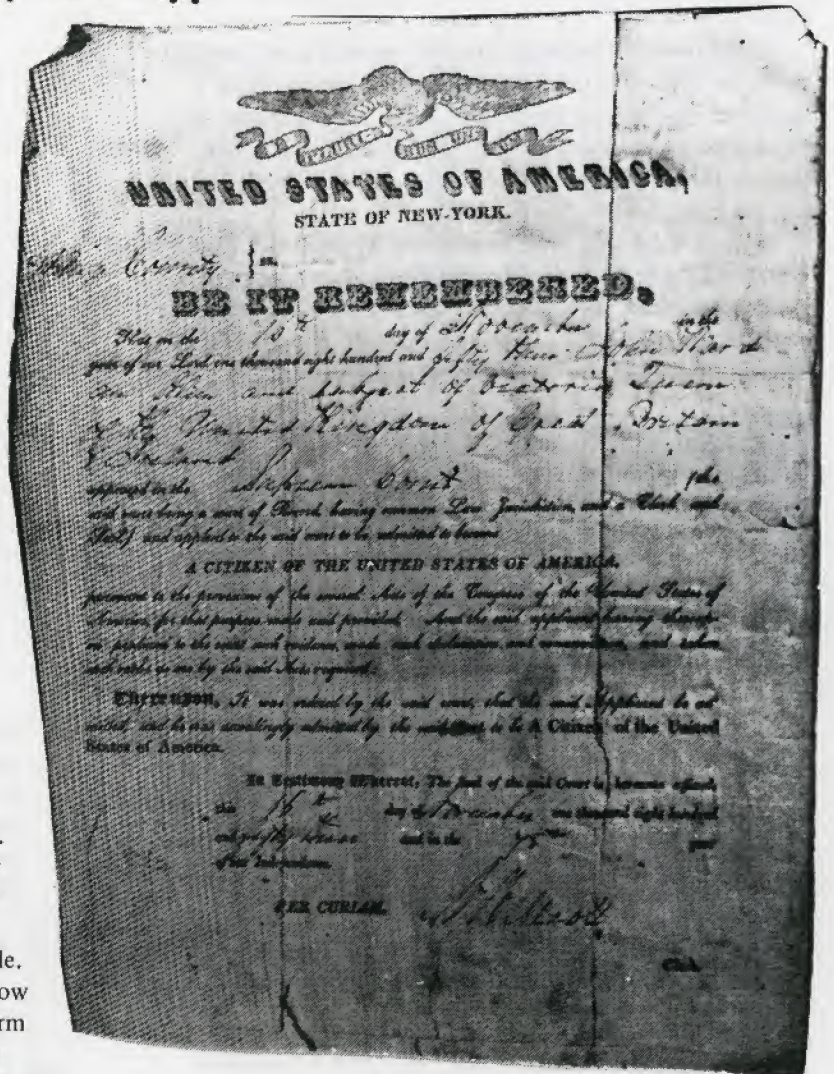


Looking at the photographs brings little stories to my mind. The little girl with the doll is Francis Ward Cavaney. She and her dearest friend, Verna Bullock, who lived near the Plain View School in Johnstown, were playing outside under a tree with a doll stuffed with straw or meal.

The girls were called into dinner and left the doll outside. While they were gone a pet colt chewed up the doll. Oh, how Frances screamed! A thrashing crew was working at the farm for the day and had not yet gone back to the fields. When they witnessed the little girl's grief over the loss of her doll they took pity upon her and taking up a collection, presented her with enough money to buy the doll she is holding in this old tintype.

To the right are the citizenship papers of John Ward, dated 1853. John worked on the Erie Canal. He had a very fine gold watch and chain which dropped into the canal. The Saints were with him that day, for someone who was fishing there drew it up for John with his fishing pole. This watch is still in the family, being in the possession of Mr and Mrs. Stewart Delany.

The family has another interesting keepsake, cotton lace which formerly graced a ladie's pantaloons. A Mrs. Newbury was sick for quite a long time and stayed at the Pember house in Johnstown Center. Margaret Ward Cummings, (daughter of John and Margaret Ward, who came from Sligo, Ireland, and mother of Mrs. Stewart Delany), would go to the Pember house and fan poor Mrs. Newbury. She fanned her and fanned her, a very kind thing to do in the days when ladies were overburdened with too many garments in the hottest weather and window screens and air-conditioning were un-



known. Margaret admired Mrs. Newbury's pantaloons. The lace was removed from Mrs. Newbury's pantaloons and was given to Margaret who stitched it onto her own. The lace from one leg is still preserved among the family treasurers.

Margaret Ward Cummings was born March 16, 1865, the last year of the Civil War in Johnstown. She was one of seven children, three of whom died of diphtheria a week after her birth. Her father, John, was about to be drafted into the Union Army and so the neighbors, (the Carys) went out, took up a collection, and raised the necessary \$100.00 to enable him to stay home.

Margaret was about nine years old when an Indian couple came to the door while her mother was churning butter. The Indian pointed out the things that he wanted Mother Ward to give him, the butter and eggs, and other foods and items about the house.

Margaret grew up to become a very fine seamstress. She sewed for about six years and made all the dresses shown in the family pictures.

One day while Margaret was at the Pembers, she acquired

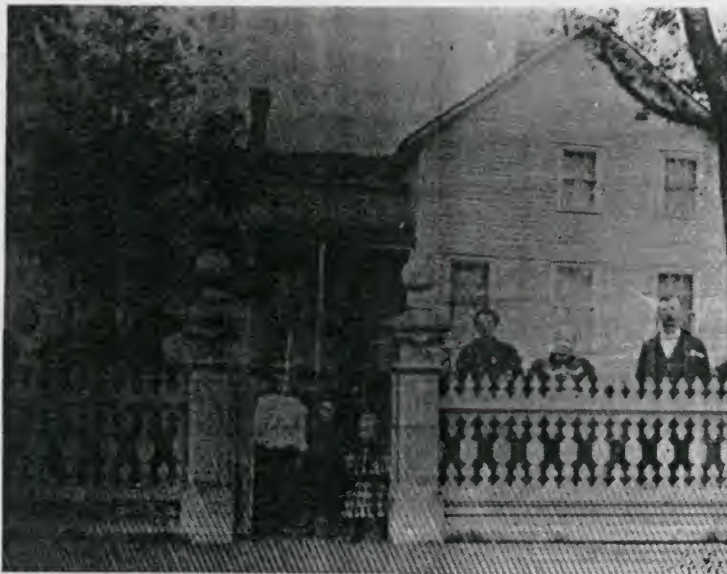


a little hole in each ear. Dr. J. Frank Pember was home from medical school and strolled about the house restlessly, "Oh, I feel like operating! I feel like operating!"

Margaret Ward replied, "Well, I'd like to have my ears pierced."

No sooner said than done. J. Frank went to work immediately. He pinched her ears and pinched her ears to numb them and then pierced them with a large darning needle. Mrs. Pember then went and got a pair of gold earrings and put them in Margaret's ears. Later on Margaret's ears 'came to' and she could hardly stand the pain.

Grampa Ward died when he was only 40 years old. Grampa Ward's doctor in his later years was Doctor Bond, who then lived in Janesville. He would drive out in a black silk top hat with a fine matched pair of black horses. Dr. Bond said that Grampa Ward, at forty, died of "just a general breaking down."



Margaret Ward married James Cummings in St. Mary's Church, Janesville, Wisconsin, April 14, 1891. "Reception at home, Johnstown Center, Wisconsin, at 7:30 p.m." read the invitation. This is the house where the reception took place. Left to right - Margaret and James Cummings, Leo, Frances, and William Ward Cummings. Back on the lawn, Ella T. Ward, Fannie Ward, Margaret Ward, (grandmother and wife of grandfather John Ward) and uncle John Ward. The stage turned around at this house and left the Janesville paper.

Margaret was an hour and a half late to her own wedding. Margaret and her husband-to-be, James Cummings, left her home by hack and attempted to drive to the church in Janesville, ignoring the thawing snows of early spring. The carriage soon bogged down in the mud and not until ninety minutes later did the mud-dabbed groom deposit his embarrassed bride among the worried wedding guests and hurry off to find someone who could lend him a clean suit of clothes.

Uncle John Ward was a master of the violin. He played for the dances held at the Rock County Poor Farm and Alms House where patients and patrons danced together and also at the Johnson House for the dances and pot-luck suppers



*James Cummings and Margaret Ward Cummings*

the Center school P.T.A. used to sponsor. Archie Webb came out to Johnstown on the stage and played the coronet at the Johnson House. Hal Peterson and George McFarlane took violin lessons from John Ward. "Articulate! Articulate your words! was a favorite expression of John Wards, especially after he became a little deaf.



*Margaret Ward Cummings*



## FANNING



Steve Fanning (son of James Fanning), born in Roscommon Co., Ireland, and Mary Sheridan Fanning, born in Johnstown.  
#474

Steve came to America first and worked for a farmer on the prairie. He had been a school teacher in Ireland, for the Fannings had owned but a small plot of ground. The farmer sent Steve out to hoe the corn. Pumpkins were planted among the rows of corn and Steve hoed them all out, not knowing what they were. Another time, he was sent to harness the team, and put the horse collar on upside down. When Steve had earned \$500.00, he spent it going back to Ireland instead of buying land here.

Steve returned to Johnstown, earned more money and sent for his brothers, John, Bartley, Mickey, Jim and Miles. Barney, another brother, chose to stay in Ireland. Mickey had a wife and family when he came and moved in with Steve for a time.

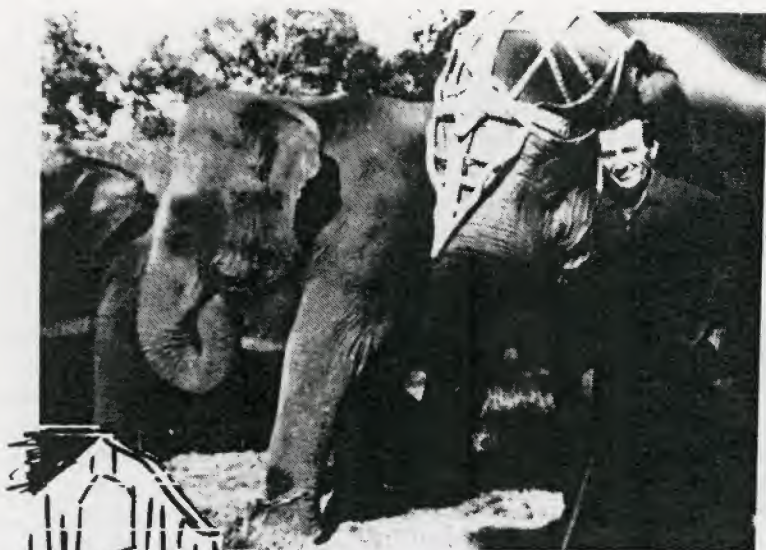
The brothers had a small house back in the deep woods on the east side of the Lima Center Road where they stayed while they cut wood. The straw piled upon the floor was their bed and they ALL cut wood. Steve hauled a cord of wood a day into Janesville for which he received \$5.00. Soon all were land owners about Johnstown, cutting their grain together with a scythe and bundling it by hand. They went to church in Whitewater, St. Patrick's, and got together in the evenings to play "45" (a card game). A lamp was hung in the window at dusk. It meant "Come on over."

Steve came to the United States in 1869, his children are: Miles, Jim, Bill, John, Mary (Mrs. Jim Hemmings), Bridget (Mrs. Hugh O'Leary), Anne (Mrs. Charley Wileman), Rosie (Mrs. Don McCann). Bartley came in 1872 and moved to Orient, S. Dakota in 1908. James came in 1875, his children are: James, Ella, Steve, who was killed by a train, Mary, Katie, and John. John also came in 1875, his children are: Patrick, John, Hugh, Mary, Maggie, Lizzie, Sarah, and Anne. Miles came in 1884, his children are: Jim, Miles, Rosie (Mrs. Pat Flood), and Mary (Mrs. Bernard Dooley). Michael came in 1886, his children are: Mary, Steve, Bart, John, Pat, Miles, Agnes, Ann, Maggie, James, and Katie.



Left to right - Miles, John, Mary and Steve, Bridget "Biddie" and "Mickey" Michael, Mary and James Fanning.  
#475

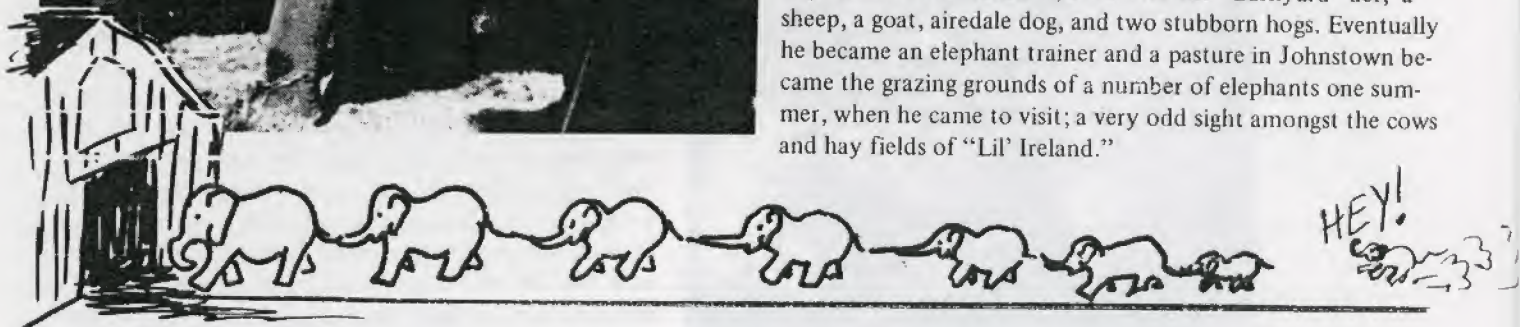




*STEVE FANNING, Son of Miles Fanning*

Steve began his show biz career during 1935 when he arrived at the winter quarters of the Vanderburg Bros. Circus seeking a summer job. He worked as a truck driver, stake driver, and property man (the fellow who hands the various acts their paraphernalia). In 1936, he turned up at the winter quarters again to hire out for another summer. This year he worked for the Holland - Dockrill Riding Act, but shocked them by refusing to wear the sissified, frilly costume provided for him.

One night the show's owner, Frank Hall, was rushed to the hospital with a ruptured appendix. The former Milton farm boy, in show biz tradition, took over the "Barnyard" act, a sheep, a goat, airedale dog, and two stubborn hogs. Eventually he became an elephant trainer and a pasture in Johnstown became the grazing grounds of a number of elephants one summer, when he came to visit; a very odd sight amongst the cows and hay fields of "Lil' Ireland."



## MALONE



*Four of the children of John and Mary Holland Malone. Left to right - Bart, John Jr., Mary (Mrs. Edward Pierce), Anne (Mrs. John Powell). Picture taken at Malone family picnic at Bart's home in Racine, Wisconsin about 1925.*

*The John Malone Family of Johnstown, Rock County, Wisconsin  
—by Margaret Malone Brady, daughter of Livinus and Elizabeth (McKenna) Malone, and granddaughter of John and Mary (Holland) Malone*

John Malone - born 1814 in Ballyfarnan and Keadue area, near Boyle, Carrick - on - Shannon, and Shannon River, County Roscommon, Ireland. Died June 18, 1907 in Johnstown, Rock County, Wisconsin.

John Malone, his brothers, Patrick (Civil War-Co F-123 Reg't-N.Y.) and Miles (gold miner, California) and sister Sarah came from County Roscommon, Ireland to New York in the 1840's and '50's.

John returned to Ireland, married Mary Holland of Ballyfermoyle, near Cootehall Village, County Roscommon, in 1846. They lived in nearby Leitrim Village where he operated a hotel, then both came back to New York. On this trip to New York, and one more later, it is understood that John Malone was buying wheat for the bakeries of Ireland during the potato famine.



After about a year in New York, John, with Mary, again returned to Ireland and lived on a farm (near Mary's parents) in Ballyfermoyle, Cootehall, County Roscommon where their ten children were born.

The children:

Barthelomew - born 1849	Mary - born, 1866 (married Edward Pierce.)
John Jr. - born 1854	Anne - born 1868 ( married John Powell)
Patrick - 1857	Miles - born, 1870
Livinus - born 1860	
Joseph - born 1863	

and two infants buried in Ireland.

They were members of St. Michael's Church, Cootehall, and the children attended St. Michael's school.

When the children were growing up they heard a great deal about America, and they too hoped to see this country.

Later on Wisconsin was advertising for settlers. In 1869, Bart Malone ( 20 years, eldest son of John), and Stephen Fanning from the same locality answered the call and came to Wisconsin. They were first shown tillable Rock Prairie in Johnstown, Rock County, which they were considering, and then taken to North Johnstown. Here there was timber for fuel, shelter and ponds of water for stock, and hills that resembled the hills of Ireland. Here they felt at home, and this is what they wanted. Bart purchased a small farm. It was in the Malone family for many years, and later known as the Albert Wendt farm.

In early 1872, John Malone Jr. came to Johnstown, and in August, 1872 the parents and six minor children also came to Johnstown where the father soon purchased a forty (40) acre farm near Bart, and later an adjoining forty acres, both about two miles north of County Trunk "A" on the Lima Center Road. This 80 acre farm became the John Malone homestead and here the family remained.

They were members of St. Patrick's Church, Whitewater. The younger children attended School District No. 4 - later Plainview, Johnstown. Mary had a term or more at the former Milton Academy in the area. The family took a weekly newspaper and I assume they voted.

As the children grew up and married they owned and operated farms in Johnstown close to their father's homestead. Livinus and family remained with his father on the John Malone Homestead which they later owned.

The homestead was sold in 1944 to Clayton Malone ( son of Miles and grandson of John Malone) who also owned his father's farm across the road from the John Malone Homestead. Both farms were sold recently by Clayton Malone now retired and living in Whitewater. Thus the John Malone Homestead was in the Malone family name for almost a century.

Mary Holland Malone died in 1877. John Malone lived to age 93 years. They and seven of their children are buried in Calvary cemetery Whitewater. Bart is buried in Racine, Wisconsin where he lived in later years. There were 37 grandchildren of John and Mary (Holland) Malone.

Today a great majority of the more than two hundred-fifty (250) direct descendants of John and Mary Malone live in and around Rock County, and many live in the city of Janesville. Several of the descendants own and operate farms in Johnstown and surrounding townships. Many work in

business and professional fields in the area and elsewhere.

My impression of grandfather John Malone and his family as I remember them, is that they were devoted to their children, strong for freedom and education, and would resist injustices if necessary, as the Irish had done for centuries in their homeland.

It took a great deal of courage for whole families to leave their country with all its attachments and cross the ocean to a new far away undeveloped America, but this country was free and had many opportunities. This is what all immigrants wanted. They made many sacrifices and their descendants owe them a great deal. I am sure those who follow will continue the cause of freedom.

Margaret Malone Brady



# 581  
On the left - Bart Malone visiting the home locality. Above- shaking hands with Miles; below, shaking hands with John. Picture taken in 1917.



# 580



# IMAGINE THE GIGGLING THAT WENT ON OVER THIS BIT OF PROSE

by Ella Joyce

Here's to dear old Johnstown, a place we all love dear.  
 It's just ten miles from Janesville. Farm Bureau is located here.  
 For good and jolly times, this town can not be beat,  
 For the boys are all so handsome and the girls are all so sweet.  
 Thou the south wind blows, and the north wind is cold,  
 Out comes Bob White and Bill Gurley in it all so bold.  
 Off to a dance or a party with a sweetheart by their side,  
 It's all up the north road, they take a merry ride.  
 And still it seems so strange, so many pretty girls in our town;  
 So many bachelors still remain.  
 I've tried to study and figger it out, and now I've come to say,  
 That it's too particular are they.  
 Now, there is Nick Mahar, fifty two is he;  
 And he says that he won't marry, a girl but twenty three.  
 And you know as well as I, that that will never be.  
 Now there is Frank Kelly, a man that I think grand,  
 I know that he could marry the best girl in the land.  
 Then there is Jim White, to understand it I cannot.  
 Were I looking for a husband, I'd choose him from the lot,  
 Now, there was John Ward, a confirmed bachelor was he;  
 Till a pretty miss called Mamie, filled his heart with glee.  
 And now they are happily married as everyone can see.  
 Here's to old Dave Carter, a soldier in our town;  
 When he was young and stalworth, some fifty years ago,  
 He left his home and loved ones to fight the bitter foe.  
 He fought his battle bravely and victory he won.  
 I could not forget that man, who fought in '61.  
 Then there is Pete White, the sexton of our town,  
 And when your heart stops beating, with a spade he digs the ground.  
 And when the angels call you, which we know they surely will;  
 Pete's the one that's notified to go up there on the hill.  
 Then his dear wife Susie, who makes everyone toe the mark;  
 But yet is always ready to go with you on a lark.  
 Now there is Wallace Pember, who never gets up late,  
 And when you go to call him, he meets you by the gate.  
 Then there was the Kumliens, another war they must forsee,  
 For four sons in succession fills their home with glee.  
 Now, there are the Gurleys, who live across the way.  
 They have a pretty daughter who is coming home to stay.  
 And then there are the Joyces, who live just up the way.  
 They used to be so lonely, but now are always gay.  
 Their home it too was lonely, but now it rings with joy;  
 For on Mart's birthday, they brought to him a blue-eyed baby boy.  
 Then down here at the Center live all the Halls,  
 But I'll say, Isa was the fickliest of them all.  
 Then, there was David Bell, who crossed the raging foam,  
 To fight for our dear country, that we might save our homes.  
 The French girls tried to nab him, but successful they were not;  
 For that fair girl he left behind, to forget her he could not.  
 So now the war is over and David is safe home,  
 And that same girl he left behind, is now his very own.  
 Now here's to Les Caldon, who has just lately wed,  
 And also to fair Mary, he to the altar led.  
 There's no one happier than they in all this land.  
 We hope they go through life, as they do today, hand in hand.  
 Then there is sweet Marie, who thrills you with her songs;  
 But the way the wind blows from the east, she won't be with us long  
 Then there is Glen Austin, who lives just up the line,  
 And say, when on a hunting trip, he surely is on time!  
 And then his dear wife, Fanny, with Red Cross work was fine.  
 She did her housework all day long and then she'd knit till nine.  
 And then, there are the Kellys. They're a happy lot.  
 Walt is always busy, he runs a barber shop and is treasurer of our town.  
 They put him in for school clerk, but that he did turn down.  
 And then his wife, dear Winnie. She is so good and kind.  
 She too is always busy, for children she has nine.  
 And when you go to see her, she certainly treats you fine

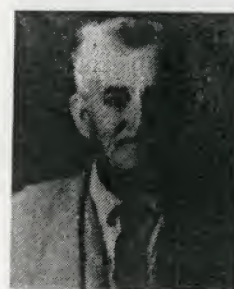


Martin Joyce adopted a small baby whose parents were unable to care for him. Little Jimmie Joyce was less than two months old at that time and Father Martin bought a good Guernsey cow to fatten the baby up.

*"They brought to him a  
 blue-eyed baby boy"  
 Ella Joyce and Jimmie*



Then there is the Hanthornes. I dare not leave them behind,  
 For through all this piece, they've been upon my mind.  
 There's Harold, a man that I think grand.  
 If I should leave him out, then, I would leave the land.  
 Then there are the Pierces; they're a happy lot  
 Till Anne she got married, the flower of the flock.  
 Then there is Ray Stoller, a carpenter in our town.  
 He used to court a pretty girl, but they say he has turned her down.  
 Then there are the Schultzs, they are going to move away.  
 We only wish they would change their minds and longer with us stay,  
 They are always up and doing and all day long they labor.  
 We sure regret their leaving, they are such good kind neighbors;  
 And are so nice and pleasant, We'll miss their smiling faces.  
 But they say a bride and groom are going to take their places.  
 Then here are the Morses, to forget them we dare not,  
 Or Johnstown would take our lives upon the very spot.  
 For hospitality they are noted all around.  
 Just one smile from Plin, would dispel the greatest frown.  
 Then there is Mae White, who teaches little girls and boys,  
 And also fills the young men's hearts, with many, many, joys.  
 And then there is dear Lizzie, who is so good and kind.  
 She is so good to the children, you'd think they were her own.  
 The rich and poor are all the same, no partiality is shown.  
 Then there is John Connors, who's from a foreign land;  
 For those that he would love, he'd cut off his right hand.  
 There is Otis Hall, to forget him I dare not.  
 From all the men that loved his wife, she chose him from the lot.  
 And so her name is Jennis, she's the wife of this great man.  
 If any one can beat him, I know that Jennie can.  
 At last, and not least, are the Moores so great;  
 For when help is needed, Francis is never late,  
 So now dear old Johnstown, I must bid you good-by  
 Although parting from you makes me sigh.  
 For all those years I am determined to live  
 The love of my heart to you I will give.  
 And all of you girls that's looking for husbands kind and true  
 Can do nothing better than to come right to you.  
 The boys should come, too, if they're looking for wives loving and sweet;  
 That will love them through life, and give them plenty to eat.



*Martin Joyce*  
 born-Aug. 1864



Martin Joyce, son of Patrick Joyce was born in a log cabin on the Hall Rd. in Section 16. Their first purchase of land was in 1864 and, of course, being Irish, they registered the sale on St. Patrick's Day of 1864. The sum total of the buildings on the place at that time was one log house. Years later they built an upright. Patrick Joyce and Ann Readon Joyce were both born in Ireland. There were seven children: Michael, born in 1852; Bridget, born Jan. 26, 1854; Mary, born Aug. 7, 1856 (She died of scarlet fever when only 19 years old and was one of the first burials in the Whitewater Cemetery.); John, born, Jan. 10, 1859; Martin, born Aug. 22, 1864; James, born Sept. 6, 1865; Anna, born Dec. 15, 1868.

As the sons of Patrick Joyce grew up they went to Seattle to work as lumberjacks, except for Martin who remained with his father. James was injured in Washington when a tree fell upon him and was buried there. Jim Berrigan came back from Seattle in need of an operation and stayed with Martin. In those days anesthetics were not what they are today nor were hospitals so careful about germs. Martin was allowed into the operating room and held down Jim's feet which took all the strength he had. Jim recovered and being an honest man deeded his share of his inheritance over to Patrick, returned to Seattle where he died and was buried. Patrick bought the farm from Jim's sister Ella, Mrs. Charles Laube.



*Mary Joyce, born-1856*





Steve Malone, son of Clayton Malone, as he appeared on Aug. 14, 1970 during an evening's entertainment put on especially for the Irish of Johnstown. "On the Green the Irish Sing" at the Johnstown Town Hall. Steve was master of ceremonies with an Irish green bowler and an orange tie. Steve is employed by International Harvester, Janesville.



Thane, Hal, and Andrew Peterson

## PETERSON



Peterson Blacksmith Shop  
Tom Johnson Frank Niskern

Andrew Peterson, son of Isabelle Annunson and Peter Peterson was born on Nov. 26, 1858, in Racine Co. where his father was a blacksmith machinist. His father helped J. I. Case build his first separator machine which was later developed into the threshing machine. Andrew's mother was presented with a small satchel, which looks much like a picnic basket, when she left her native Norway. The hand-carved and hand-painted wooden box bears the date, 1817, and the word "Tuthe", the name of the farm from which she emigrated. They were married Dec. 25, 1889 in Richmond, Walworth County, Wisconsin, moved to Auberdeen, S.D. in 1893, returned to Richmond, and moved to Johnstown in 1896. Mrs. Peterson passed away in June of 1938 and Mr. Peterson passed away in Oct. of 1953. Andrew and Isabelle had three children: Marion, now Mrs. Hawley Donaldson; Ruth, now Mrs. McKillips; and Hal. Hal stayed in Johnstown and worked at the same forge his father had. The blacksmith shop was always a busy place. At times 26 horses a day were shod there, many wagon wheels were rimmed and repaired. Over the years the shop sold wagons, buggies, farm implements, and gasoline. It was the favorite spot to hear all the news, while getting your plow lathes sharpened or a piece of machinery repaired.

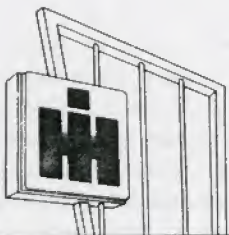
Hal Peterson remained at his father's trade in Johnstown giving us one of the few blacksmith shops left in a wide area. Hal and Florence Peterson had one son, Thane Peterson.

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FARM AND INDUSTRIAL TRACTORS AND EQUIPMENT • MOTOR TRUCKS





# Peterson Blacksmith Shop

M



To A. P. Peterson, Dr.  
Horseshoeing and Blacksmithing  
Farming Machines, Buggies and Wagons



Never Slip Calks are just what the name indicates, they never slip

*Journal of Johnstone's Account with A. P. Peterson*

Apr 7 1911	Repair grader	1	.50
" 10	Chain & hooks		.50
May 20	sharp grader	3	.00
" 27	two whifflet eveners	1	.00
June 14	ridge iron	1	.90
June 17	sharp bar		.10
	iron	1	.20
	claws		.40
	grader		.75
	hooks		.25
	scraper		.50
	float	1	.50
	<b>total</b>		<b>\$11.50</b>



Andrew, George Anderson, David Cummings  
Peterson, cousin to Isabelle  
Peterson

Known by  
the customers  
we keep

**DX**

**PETERSON AND KOWAL OIL COMPANY**  
DX Petroleum Products

Phones PL 4-4393  
PL 2-4658  
P. O. Box 48

24 South Terrace St.  
JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN  
53545 93





*Esther Bjorklund Johnson, senior citizen of the township, who will be 84 years old on Dec. 17.*



*Victor Bjorklund and Emma Swenson Bjorklund, mother and father of Esther Johnson.*

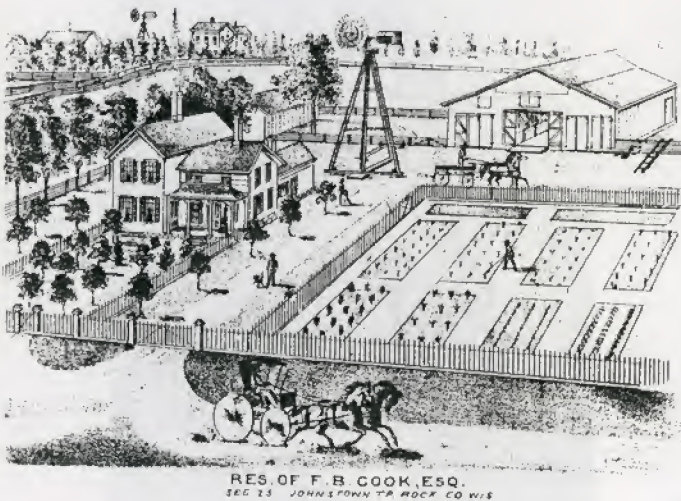


*Esther and Alice with their Christmas present. Victor, the father went to Chicago and bought the girls a piano which he had shipped to Delavan in Nov. of 1899 and someone said to him, "Why, that's not enough of a present for two little girls." So Victor, the generous father, also bought them the dolls they are holding in the picture.*



*Esther, Alice, and Carl Bjorklund*





From the 1873 "Atlas of Rock County." Now the home of Esther Bjorklund Johnson.



Sylvia Storms Clark, a Johnstown girl, holding Silvia Worthington Lidtke. 6 months old. Photo taken in 1913.



— Walt Peterson photo  
**PREPARES SCIENCE LESSON** — When science classes throughout the state tune in "Young Experimenters" on the Wisconsin School of the Air, they are participating in science lessons and experiments prepared by Lloyd Liedtke, associate professor of science at Whitewater State College, and Mrs. Liedtke, science teacher at Emory Junior High School in Fort Atkinson. Basic science questions are explored in the series which is aired at 9:15 a.m. each Tuesday for fifth to eighth graders. The Liedtkes prepare the script and study manual for the lesson, which is narrated by Norman Mitsche, Madison. The Liedtkes also wrote the scripts and study manuals for the earlier series, dropping the program three years ago when Mr. Liedtke was invited to participate in a Ford Foundation sponsored experiment in teaching science by television. *Janetville Gazette*

Mrs. Lidtke won a Wisconsin State Women's Club Prize with this poem about her Uncle John Clark.

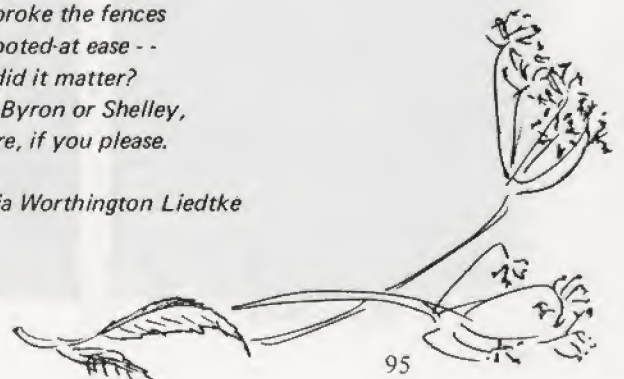
#### POET FARMER

He dwelt on this prairie  
 But was never part of it:  
 For he lived on the heath  
 With Keats at his side  
 Or roamed o'er the moorland  
 With Burns as his guide.

He grubbed out American stumps  
 By the hundred,  
 But "elephants pilin' teak"  
 Had the share of his mind.

His stock broke the fences  
 His hogs rooted at ease --  
 But what did it matter?  
 There was Byron or Shelley,  
 Shakespeare, if you please.

Sylvia Worthington Liedtke





## WEHLER

Things were in rather a turmoil in Prussia and the family assumes that this is why Frederick Wehler left when 17 years of age and sailed for America alone. New immigrants had a tendency to cling together at first, and therefore, we find Frederick, unable to write English, in Watertown, Wisconsin, a haven for many German Americans. It was here that he met Caroline Knispel, also a native of Germany. With a two wheeled cart and one old ox they traveled to their home in Section 36 (No. 365), Johnstown. Frederick hewed out a log table for his bride and they sat down to their first supper in Johnstown. Frederick took out citizenship papers in 1860. In 1878, he sold his holdings in Section 36 and bought land in Section 32 ( No. 324).

Frederick and Caroline had four children: John, Charles, born March 27, 1872, Anna, ~~who became the widow Carr~~ <sup>where Tom died</sup> married Tom Jones, and moved to California. Frederick <sup>she then married a Carr</sup> Wehler passed away just before his last son, George Frederick ick, was born. The father's death occurred Sept. 11, 1886. The widow gave birth to her last son Feb. 20, 1887. The oldest son Charles, took over the operation of the farm. Charles married L. Clara Schoof, a daughter of Diedrich Schoof of Janesville. They had one daughter, Ruth Wehler, now Mrs. Harold Baum of Edgerton. Later on when little George Frederick became a man grown, he and his older brother farmed together. Eventually George Frederick bought out Charles and Charles retired to Ruger Ave., Janesville.

Frederick Wehler married Martha Mohns Sowles, widow of Dan Sowles. She had two sons by her first marriage, George and Robert Sowles. Martha and George Frederick became the parents of one son, Frederick Charles Wehler, the third generation to farm the acreage in Section 32 and father of the fourth generation, Caroline, Steven, Susan, Tina, Tim, and Neil.

Steve married Debra Riese - ch-Jason - Heather  
Caroline " Kenneth m. Bride - ch-Becki - Jordan



Frederick Wehler



Caroline Knispel Wehler



Charles Wehler



Anna Wehler Carr Jones



John Wehler

Jones - Carr





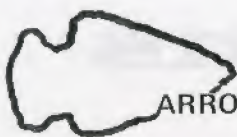
*Clara Schoof Wehler, Charles Wehler, holding his daughter Ruth, Caroline Knispel Wehler, and George Frederick Wehler.*



*George Frederick Wehler. The photographer furnished the dog.*



*The photographer himself*



ARROWHEAD FARMS

Livestock & Grain

FRED C. WEHLER

R. 1 Box 114

Janesville, Wisconsin





*George Frederick Wehler and Robert Lamb. Robert was a pioneer breeder of milking short-horn cattle, founding his herd in 1892. Robert Wallace Lamb married Anna Hadden, Sept. 6, 1893. She died in July of 1941. They are plowing on the Lamb farm (No. 334) with two horse drawn plows chained together plus drags. The tractor is an Allis Chalmers.*



*Planting time on Rock Prairie - Gil Bar Farms*

#### TRELAY SEEDS

Seed Corn

Seed Grain

Grass Seed

# Trelay Farms

ELMER G. BIDDICK & SON

LIVINGSTON, WISCONSIN



## DAVIDSON — SKELLY APPLE ORCHARDS

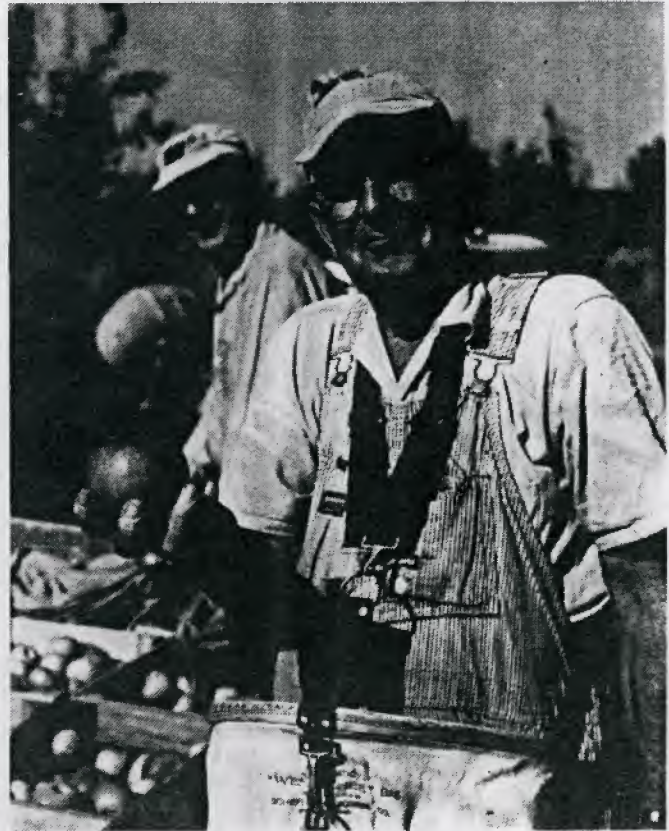
The Davidson-Skelly Apple Orchard has been located in North Johnstown for about 35 years. The business was originally operated by Russ Davidson and is now managed by his son, Wayne Davidson, rural mail carrier out of Milton, Wisconsin, and Chet Skelly, whose wife is a Davidson.

The orchard has about 40 to 45 acres planted to apple trees, more than 3,000 trees, Spartas, Red Delicious, Ida Red, Golden Delicious, MacIntosh, Tallman Sweets, Russets, Sheepnose, Wellington, and at least 15 to 20 more varieties are hanging upon the trees. There are also 25 cherry trees, 10 plum trees, and some pears.

After the apples are picked this fall, the pruning of the trees to prepare them for the next growing season will begin. The pruning tool works with compressed air. After the outdoor temperature drops below 45 degrees, the tool no longer operates as it should and pruning stops until early spring. It is then resumed with the rise in the air temperature. Art Wendorf and Duke Manogue do most of the pruning and other work about the orchard until picking time when 17-18 people are hired to come in and pick apples. The orchard is fertilized every year. Nitrogen is applied every other year. Depending upon the weather and the amount of rain washing away the insecticide, the trees are sprayed with a huge fogger nineteen times or more during the season. This spring

the trees were sprayed every other day at a cost of approximately a dollar a tree for the spray. The orchards are also kept mowed. The brush from the pruning is pulverized by the powerful mower.

1970 is considered to be a poor apple year. Mr. Wendorf estimates that there will be but half a crop for there was no rain at the right time. The men working at the orchard suggested a blend of apple varieties for the best tasting apple cider. Mr. Wendorf recommends a combination of Tallman Sweets, MacIntosh, and Cortlands.



Art Wendorf with an exceptionally large apple. The bag hanging from his shoulders by a strap will hold 1/2 bushel, comes open at the bottom, and allows the apples to roll into the boxes on the wagon.



# Sunnyview Orchard

DAVIDSON & SKELLY

352 PARK STREET

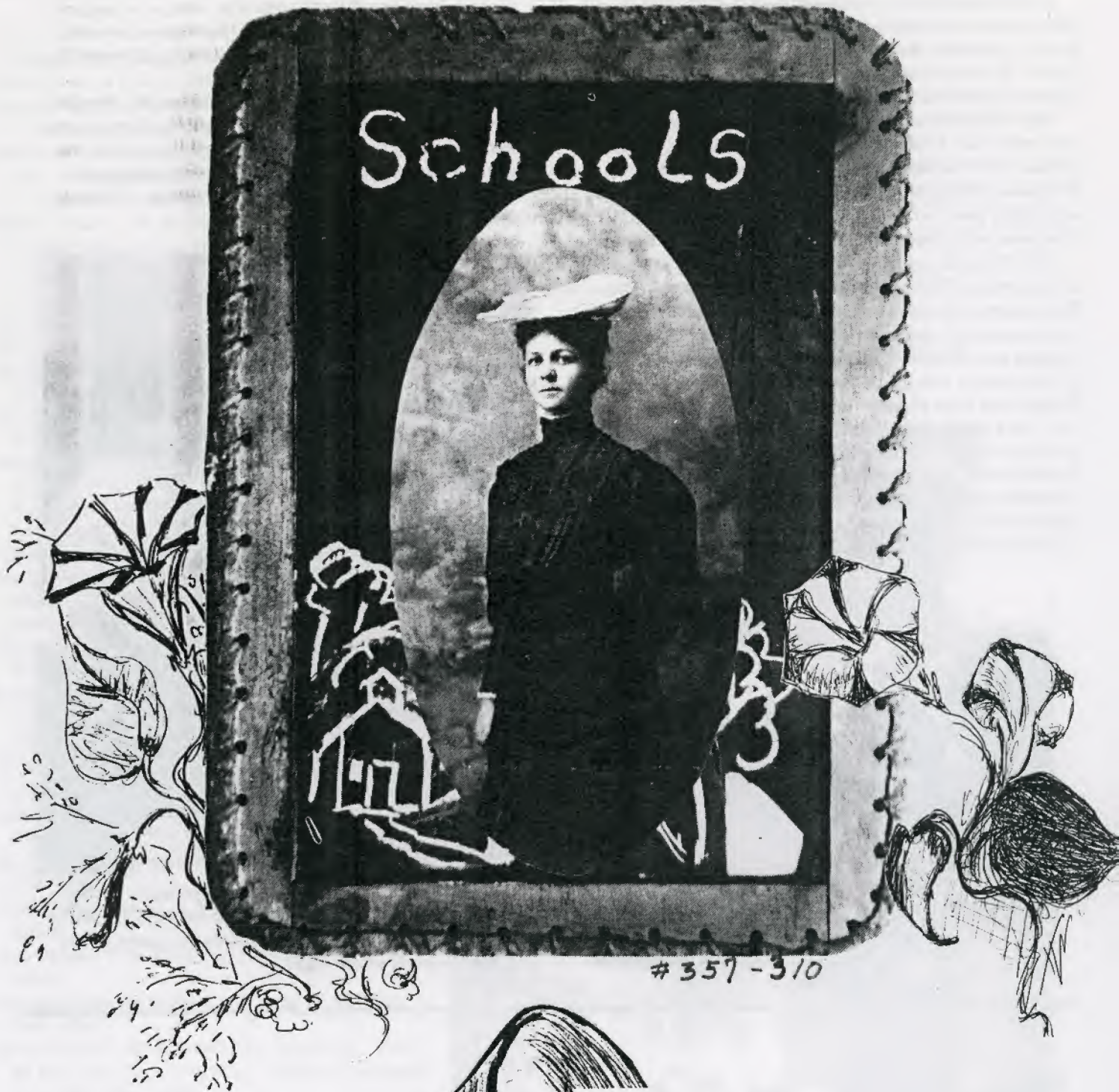
TELEPHONE 868-3466

MILTON, WISCONSIN

QUALITY APPLES



Photo was used by George F. Zander in the Wehler school,  
Picture page 103 - Sue Mawhinney taught in Johnston 1903-04



In Memory of  
Sue Rosencrans Mawhinney  
from former pupils and friends.



Oh! don't you remember the school Ben Bolt,  
 And the Master so kind and so true,  
 And the little nook by the clear running brook,  
 Where we gather'd the flowers as they grew,  
 Oh! the Master's grave, grave the grass Ben Bolt,  
 And the running little brook is now dry,  
 And of all the friends who were school mates then,  
 There remain, Ben, but you and I.  
 And of all the friends who were school mates then,  
 There remain, Ben, but you and I.

# FIRST STEPS IN GEOGRAPHY.





## THE SCHOOLS

The schools in the United States started with Tom Jefferson's idea of a system of education which would reach every citizen from the richest to the poorest. Children had been going to England or France to get a higher education. Before that, a tutor was found for them. Shortly after the American Revolution, the Land Ordinance of 1785 provided that lot No. 16 of every township be set aside for the maintenance of the public schools within that township. The government had lots of land, but no money. The government gave the land, which was to be sold when settlers came into the area, and this money helped the schools to begin. In this way each area was provided for as it became settled.

The people who came to settle in Wisconsin were not illiterate, although some may not have been able to speak the English language. There were private and semi-private schools in the scattered settlements. Whitewater had a German school which some of Johnstown's children attended. If a man thought he would like to teach school, he went about telling the families of the area. Each family wishing to send a child to him for instruction payed a sum for each child. The teacher stayed, taking turns, with the families of the children he taught. He received part of his pay as food and lodging. About 2% of the new settlers could not read or write. In 1940, 1.7% were illiterate.<sup>1</sup> The proportion of illiterates in the population was almost the same during log cabin days as in 1940.

Soon after the Black Hawk War many settlers came to Wisconsin. Four years after this war a law was passed and every town having 50 families was required to support a common school. I imagine the mothers are to blame for enforcing this law. *They talked!* when they saw each other over the teacup. They wrote letters back east encouraging more settlers to come out so that their community could have a church and a school. The mothers would find an empty cabin or an empty room somewhere. A teacher was found, usually some young person in the neighborhood who had had some schooling. School was held for three to five and one-half months. In 1852, there were almost as many log cabin schools in Wisconsin as those built of boards. (66 brick schools, 74 stone, 812 framed, and 778 log schools).<sup>1</sup> Oftentimes the teacher had been a student the previous year of the school he or she now taught. Teachers for country schools were very scarce.

Books were also hard to get but an assortment would be gathered up of various kinds. Each child had a little chalk board instead of precious paper and pencils. They sat upon simple benches. About half the schools had no blackboards. The blackboards for the Wehler school were made of smooth lumber painted black and brought all the way from Milwaukee by ox team. Very few girls were taught in the higher grades. Education was not considered a necessary accomplishment for a girl. A man teacher received about \$16.00 a month and a female teacher received about \$9.00

Children did not have to go to school. The boys helped with the farm work and the girls helped in the house. Many immigrant children did not speak English and so they stayed

home. During the winter it was hard to get to school and the building was poorly lit and cold. In 1879 a law was passed requiring the teacher to pass an examination and have a certificate to teach. It wasn't until 1909 that a teacher was required to attend a professional school for teachers for at least six weeks. Thousands of Wisconsin's mothers were once school teachers. They were generally the better student and loved learning.

The children at the Wehler school sat at desks that were fastened to the floor with screws. The smaller children had a little footstool to rest their feet upon. Many of the children had ponies and rode them to school. They carried the water that filled the large stone jar in the hallway from the neighboring farmer's well. Each child brought his lunch. In the winter time the teacher set the little jars of soup or beans or whatever the child had brought on top of the big wood stove so that the children had a hot dinner.

The teacher was the janitor. She started her fire in the morning and did all the sweeping. The ladies of the neighborhood gathered together once a year to thoroughly clean *their* school. The men painted it and mended the fence. A boy was payed a quarter to carry wood for the teacher. It was their school and they were proud of it. For many of the children this was their only schooling. Only the best students went on to high school. Many parents felt that their children were needed at home. Many parents could not afford to pay for a student's keep in town so that he could go to high school. There are still men and women living in this township today (1970) who did not have the opportunity to go on to high school.

WEHLER SCHOOL



"I often think of the cold winter morning in February. It had snowed the night before, making the roads almost impassable. My teacher friend and I made an attempt to get to our respective schools. She let me out on County Trunk "A" at Johnstown, to walk through the snow to Ruger Avenue Road, where Wehler School was located. Little did I realize the distance from road to road, until I started walking. After going over a knoll, and seeing what was ahead of me, I was ready to turn around and go back, but my friend had gone on, which left me no other alternative than to keep on walking. I was carrying a gallon pail of cocoa for refreshments for our valentine party that afternoon.

A farmer saw me trudging through the snow, and feeling sorry for me, no doubt, gave me a ride to school on the fender of his tractor, which he was using at the time. I was afraid of falling off, but was grateful for the ride. Upon my arrival at the school, the fire in the old furnace was out. After getting it started, I managed to organize myself and get set for the day."

Florence Brown

(1) "The Making of our Wisconsin Schools 1848-1849" by Edgar G. Doudna

from - "Rock County Schools" 1964-65 Annual Report of the County Superintendent of Schools.



## WEHLER SCHOOL



The first Wehler School stood across the road and farther to the west than the present building. This first school building was constructed with locally available rough sawed lumber. It was necessary to go into Milwaukee by ox team in order to get smooth, matched lumber with which to make the blackboards.



### CLASS OF VONEY GLEASON

*Top row — Ernest Boone, Pearl Briggs, teacher - Voney Gleason, Cathrine Clark, Charley Hadtlen. Bottom row — Harold Hanthorn, Albert Boone, George (Boots) Wehler, (this boy got the chilblains so bad during cold weather that he had to wear boots to school, hence the nickname), Freddy Hadden.*





1910-11  
Class of Maud Howarth, back row, left to right - Mary Etta Lamb, Ivan McLay, Agnes McKeown, Bob Lamb, Catherine McKeown, teacher Maud Howarth. Front row ~~Hugh McKeown~~  
Kirkland McLay, Art McLay, Charlie McKeown, Jeannette Lamb. Stewart Main.



#### CLASS OF RUTH FRODL CONDON

Back row, left to right - Ruth Payne, Mary Arndt, Kenneth Decker, Francis Wellnitz, Robert Sowles, Agnes Schiller, girl with long tie - Vernice Decker, Doris Dean, Angela Wellnitz, Ruth Kauffman, Doris Payne, Ferdinand Wellnitz, <sup>Ralph Kauffmann</sup> Donald Decker, <sup>Frank Wellnitz</sup> Harold Moffett, Billy Kauffmann.





*CLASS OF RUTH FRODL - Three seated, left to right - Donald Decker, Alex Clark. First two standing at the left and row back of the seated children. - Ruth Payne, Frank Wellnitz, Ferd Wellnitz, James McLay, Billy Kauffmann, Ruth Schiller, Charley Doll, Joseph Wellnitz, Fred Wehler, Alice Arndt. Last row - Mary Arndt, Agnes Schiller, Angela Wellnitz, Vernice Decker, Doris Payne, Phylis Dean, Ruth Frodel, teacher, and Ralph Kauffmann.*



*CLASS OF AGNES SCOTT - First pupil, first row - Jeanette Jones, Ferd Wellnitz, Ruth Schiller, Ruth Payne. First pupil, second row - Catherine Payne, Charley Doll, Billy Kauffmann, Alex Clark, James McLay. First pupil, last row - Albert Wellnitz, Ellen Extrem and Ann Mary Jones, Mac and Stanley McLay, Joseph Wellnitz and Fred Wehler.*





*Class of Mrs. Fern Nye. First row, back to front — Rose Marie Morse, Robert Morse, Harry Morse, Middle row - teacher, Mrs. Fern Nye, Jean McFarlane McLay, Lynn Longman, Richard Morse. Third row - Ivan McLay, Miriam McLay.*



*First row - back to front: Richard Morse, Barbara Rutherford, Sue Madsen, Second row - Jean McLay, Rose Marie Morse, Jerry Madsen, Lynn Longman, Teacher - Miss Florence Brown. Third row - Meriam McLay, Josephine Madsen, Harry Morse, Robert Morse.*



## UTTERS CORNERS SCHOOL



### UTTERS CORNERS SCHOOL

There was a German school at Whitewater, Wisconsin and some of the Utters Corner's children were sent there. Two ladies, who went to the German school, did not feel that it helped them as they got behind in their studies at the Utters Corners school.

The first Utters Corners school was of clapboard with a three high log fence about it. The cream colored brick was built in about 1868. During W.P.A. project times the school was jacked up for repairs and the cream colored brick fell off. It was decided to recover it with red brick. When the W.P.A. men were about half-way through with the job; they left! Some said that they were not good workers and a shiftless lot and that is why they didn't finish. Another man said that the W.P.A. government program was about all done and that the men had been disbanded.

A man named Coffman was contracted to finish the job and he hired men to do so.

Reminiscences of Dr. Samuel Hull written in 1834 at the age of 82. He died shortly after. Edited by his daughter, Mabel Hull Paul.

In the years of 1859 and 1860 I was attending school at the Utters Corners school house situated on the county line between Rock and Walworth Counties, Wisconsin. At the Corners are four township corners; namely, Lima, Richmond, Whitewater, and Johnstown. This is good agricultural land and was settled mostly by people from the New England states who called themselves Americans or Yankees as their parents had been born in the U. S.

This district was taken up by settlers from 1836 on until all the land was taken. My grandfather and family of 4 sons and 2 daughters came and settled in the town of Lima in 1840 where my father lived 2 years. When becoming of age, Father bought a farm in the town of Johnstown where he lived until he died at the age of 84. This farm is where I was born and raised to manhood.

Utters Corners was named for 3 brothers who settled in 1836 and took up and owned land at 3 Corners. Their names were Joseph, Simeon and Curtis Utter. Joseph Utter built and ran a store and post office on the Whitewater corner. His brother Simeon had a farm and built a house just north of the store. Curtis, the youngest, ran a farm and built a frame house which he used as a hotel and kept a bar as nearly all hotels did in the early days. I thought as a boy that the building, especially the house, was very large and imposing.

Opposite the store, in Richmond corner, stood and still stands a country church where most of the people who lived in the vicinity went to church.

A little way from the Johnstown corner was a blacksmith shop and house combined which was owned and run by a Mister Schultz - a German man and wife who talked very broken English and as he was the only man of foreign birth that I knew at that time, I loved to hear him talk. There was a family of Teechhorns who settled in the neighborhood who were of Dutch descent. The old people could speak English as well as anyone.

Our little red school house was south of the blacksmith shop and was about 40 rods from the corners, south. It was



*Whitewater* COMMERCIAL AND SAVINGS *Bank*

WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN



built in a clearing and fences on two sides - - north and west. The fence was of whole logs and was straight, but for a short cross piece which was put across to hold up the ends. It was 3 logs high. The better logs were about 2 feet thick and about 20 feet long. The top log was somewhat smaller. It was a good strong fence at first, but as the logs settled they would lean and sheep would soon learn to go over, which they did quite frequently. I used to like to see the sheep and especially the lambs go over the top as they would jump stiff legged and then they would run to the top of the fence and it seemed as though they vied with each other to see which could jump the farther into the field.

The road which was in front of the school yard was not fenced and made a great playground, but the best playground was on the south and was an unoccupied eighty and not fenced which was called "The Commons".

As cattle and sheep ran on The Commons in those days the grass was cropped close. In The Commons were large white and red oak trees that were from 1½ to four feet through at the bottom.

A rise of land ran east and west through the center of the Commons dividing it into two parts from east to west. There were also small trees, second growth, from 1 to 4 or 5 inches through and quite thick in patches which made a great place for us children to play in. The lower leaves and twigs were eaten off by the sheep. We used to cut poles and make play houses, rooms were fenced off, and barns built. Lots of times we took our tin pails and ate our lunch there. We were allowed to cut all the small trees we wished as wood was not worth much at that time. We climbed these small trees and bent them down and made tethers so they would spring back and forth, up and down, as we saw fit. Some of these trees grew crooked as we left them and made quite thick trees. It was a healthy and clean sport. We used our minds to invent play.

Utters Corners was quite a thriving village in early days and did quite a business in 1860, but the railroad had come from Milwaukee in 1852 north of us at Whitewater and people were beginning to trade where they took their produce to market. Before the railroad came, this burg caught a share of the trade from both north and south as well as from east and west. As the people came through to go to Milwaukee from Janesville and Rockford or drove to Fort Atkinson, Watertown, and Green Bay they often stopped for the night at the tavern.

When my father took land, he walked to Milwaukee, 50 miles, with \$200 in gold in his pockets to pay for his 160 acres of land. He said he did not like to show his money on the road and the chafing that he got by carrying his money in his pantaloons' pockets was something terrible.

Joseph Utter ran his store until he died. Well do I remember him as always going to church and taking a great interest in its activities. A clean, fine looking man, straight and intellectual looking, his hair turned as white as snow as he grew old.

Simeon went to church occasionally, but I never saw the brother Curtis at the church unless there was a funeral. He was younger than the other two brothers, and he was a good customer of his own business. (someway I have noticed that the saloon and churches were not friendly in any respect).

The school house was a frame affair with a main room and an entry way where pupils hung their outer garments on wooden pegs. The whole building was, as near as I can remember, about 18 feet by 24 feet, lathed and plastered on the inside and clapboarded on the outside with siding. It was made before I can remember. A long seat ran across the back of the room, and its back was the plaster on the wall. The desks were made of plain unpainted lumber. Two scholars sat in each seat.

Some years we had 3 terms of school of 3 months each. By having 3 months school in the winter, the younger scholars could have 6 months in summertime. As the district was 3 miles long and 1½ miles wide that gave the younger ones a better school year. They stayed home in winter. The larger boys and girls went 3 months, the second term, in winter, and worked all the spring, summer, and fall.

Teachers taught by the term. We generally had a man teacher in winter and women teachers in summer.

The winter I was seven, there were 50 scholars and all had to be seated in the one room. A large stove was situated in the center. I remember that 8 or 10 of us small boys sat on that long bench placed against the entry room. We sat as close as we could sit, our backs against the wall. We had no desk and had but one book apiece which we had to hold in our hand or place it on the bench and sit on it. We sat close and, of course, faced the scholars in the seats and could see all that was going on. Sometimes we saw things that made us snicker; and, of course, that brought the teacher's attention to us and sometimes to the older scholars. I think that the teacher paid more attention to us than he did to the older scholars. No doubt the teacher read our faces more than we thought as we were like a looking glass so he could tell by us what the school was doing, for the older scholars declared that he must have had eyes in back of his head he was so sharp.

When the classes were called, the scholars came forward and stood in a row in front of us while the class recited. They stood pretty close to us as the stove was too hot for them in cold weather. The large boys were apt to step on our toes pretty often and sometimes we would take a pin, and if we had our toes stepped on too often, we would give them a stab. Sometimes we would get to laughing and the teacher would take us by the collar and use the book or ruler on the seat of our pants. The boys that sat on the end of the bench had quite a knack of falling off the end. The teacher would ask how it happened. The first boy said that the next boy pushed him off. When the teacher asked that boy why he did it he said the next one pushed him and so on until the teacher got to the last boy on the bench. He said that he could not push because he had to look out and not fall off his end! That made all the scholars laugh and the teacher laughed, too; and none of us were punished.

Just imagine 8 boys sitting for 1½ hours, every day, as close as they could sit, without getting up, in a room of 50 and one teacher having all grades to teach.

Sometimes he would punish, but we never hated him as he was just in his punishment. His name was Mr. Snow, but the boys all declared that he was white.

Sometimes in the hot summer the teacher would teach



school out under the great oaks. It was cool out there, but I was never able to study out there for I never could keep my eyes on my book when I could see birds in the trees and squirrels on the ground. If they barked at us, as they often did, I always wanted to see them. It was a great place for the Brown Thrush as they made the woods resound with their music. The Black birds would come around on the ground near us to hunt for scraps that were left from our lunch.

Rabbits were plentiful. One day we chased one into a hollow tree and could not get him out. So we put some leaves in the hole and set them afire and tried to smoke him out, but he didn't come out. Then the school bell rang so we had to go back to our lessons.

We thought the fire was nearly out and gave it no more thought. That night there was quite a spectacular sight. The weather was nice and clear. I suppose the fire got started up the center of the tree, which must have been dry and hollow to the top for the flames shot above the trees and having a good draft from the bottom the flames went to an amazing height. Some of the neighbors thought it was a house and went to investigate, but found that it was only a tree. The tree partly burned up, but, as the outside of the tree was green, it went out after it fell over. The grass did not get afire to run and make a woods fire as it might have been if it had been in a dry time in the fall of the year when the leaves had fallen.

The parents asked quite a number of boys, "Who set the fire?". They never asked the ones who knew; and, of course, we did not tell. The rabbit got roasted as we found out afterwards, suffocated by the smoke.

The Utters Corners Material was prepared by -

*Shirley Scharine*



UTTERS CORNERS SCHOOL

"In the fall of 1957 I began teaching at Utters Corners School. There was a new addition being added to the one room, which included a classroom, restrooms, hallway and hot lunch room. It wasn't completely finished when school started. I think I will always remember the first day there. The other teacher and I taught 59 pupils in the one room. When the day was over we were exhausted and had many unsolved problems. Who should come to our rescue, but Mr. Upson. As he was passing, he stopped to see how we were getting along. Was he a welcome guest! We were very grateful and happy; he had thought of us on that first day. He helped us with many of our problems. In a very short time, we moved into the new addition." <sup>1</sup>

Mrs. Esther Douglas

(1) from - "Rock County Schools" 1964 - 65 Annual Report of the County Superintendent of Schools



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UTTERS CORNERS SCHOOL - Back row, left to right - Minfred Boyle, Harold Friske, Raymond Moss, Raymond Graske, Hubert Hull, Alvin Graske. Kneeling - Buelah Hadley, Gertrude Goodrin, Isabelle Teetshorn.





The identification for the 1909 picture at Utters Corners School was noted this week. On the far right are Harold Hull, Irwin Schimmel, Charlie Knowles, Walter Schimmel, Martha Peters Streib, and Leona Frank. In the middle are Beulah Hadley Gruetzman, Isabel Teetshorn Brown, Gladys Goodrin Schmidt, Maude Gonia, Blanche Funk, Leonard Funk, Dorothy Hull Bell and Esther Schimmel. On the far left are Mary Peters O'Donnel, Gertrude Goodrin, Arthur Funk, Harold Friskie, Lee Hadley and Irwin Castle.



Over 200 people assembled Sunday afternoon at the Centennial observance of the Utters Corners school. District Superintendent P. A. Piddington traced the history of the school and cited the changes in education and the unified district. Pictured above are many of the former teachers of the school. From left - Gertrude Melillo Volland, Frances Zuill, Mrs. Florence Smudden Kyle, Mrs. Fern Cook, Esther Duoss Hull, Mrs. Marlene Carter, Miss Florence Bennis, Mrs. Ruth Colby. Sitting are Mrs. Susan Mawhinney. Back Row - Former County Supt. G. T. Longbotham, Dist. Supt. P. A. Piddington.



# MAPLE CORNERS SCHOOL



Maple Corners School Board. Left to right - Pearl Morton , Frank Clark, Les Godfrey.



Rena George - Teacher



To the left - Maple Corners school as it stood in Johnstown. It was the only building removed from the township after the schools consolidated. Below - Here it is on E. Delavan Drive, Janesville, Wisc. The first two windows on this side and up the roof to the chimney are the original building.

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Lila Petty - Teacher





*From left to right — Les Godfrey, teacher; — — — — —, James Morton, Ella M Scott, Ellis Vandenburg, Sarah Mawhinney. On the ground - George Morton, Bobbie McGowan. At this time the school was only known as "District School 11". Three of Les Godfrey's daughters, May, Margaret, and Helen, also received their 8th grade diplomas here.*



*Left to right - Helen Godfrey Dorr, Marion Clark McLay, Gertrude McGowan Corbin, Esther Mawhinney McCarthy, Eva Godfrey Hugunin.*





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*Class of Edith Kemp. Back row, left to right - Ethel MacArthur VanHorn, Edith Kemp, Oscar Zimmerman. Front - Cicily Hay, John Clark, Claude Long, John Hay.*



# 445

*Back row, left to right - Lilah Mawhinney Zanton ( Her head barely shows at the far left.), Margaret Godfrey Scharine, Catherine Clark Arnold, Francis Clark, held by Mabel Taylor Wetmore, Mae Godfrey Arnold. Next row - Janet McGowan Rump, Clarence Lyke, (bonnet is) Jesse Morton, Marion Clark McLay, Helen Godfrey Dorr. The boy in back of these last two is Lyle Mawhinney. Esther Mawhinney McCarthy, Frank Mawhinney, Eva Godfrey Hugunin. In front - Thomas Peters, ---, John Clark.*



ROCK PRAIRIE ( No. 202 )

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ROCK PRAIRIE 202

### ROCK PRAIRIE SCHOOL (No. 202)

"The children were studying a unit on owls. Their unit became more meaningful when they discovered a Snowey Owl in the schoolyard. "Hooty", a very saucy owl was later given his freedom. <sup>1</sup>

Margaret Collins

1 Rock County Schools - Published by the superintendents office - 1964 - 65

Picture Courtesy Rock Co. Historical Society

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## Country Day School New Summer Project

A former nursery school assistant in Hinsdale, Ill., Mrs. Frederick L. Baker, Rte. 1, is opening a Country Day School June 18 in the one-room rural school located on the Baker farm. Formerly the Rock Prairie district school, the building has been idle since the district consolidated with Johnstown in 1954.

The frame school, built in 1900,

is fenced in on a quarter-acre tract with shade trees as one of

means of getting children into the country where they may become acquainted with farm life. The Bakers bought their 160-acre farm on County Trunk A, 6½ miles east of Janesville, four years ago. It was formerly the Frank Arnold farm.

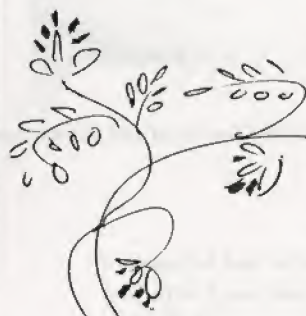
With Carol Jean Arnold as her assistant, Mrs. Baker plans supervised play for children from 3 to 6 years, picnics in the woods, painting and drawing, as well experience of farm life. The school will run Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4-p.m. during the summer months.

While the Bakers were Hinsdale residents since childhood he became acquainted with Wisconsin while attending the University of Wisconsin. A chemical engineer, Mr. Baker now operates his own farm. Mrs. Baker, a graduate of Pine Manor, Wellesley Mass., studied in France for one year. The Bakers have two sons, Fred 15, a Janesville High School student and John, 12, who attends Johnstown Consolidated School.



**SCHOOL OPENS JUNE 18**—Country Day School will open for the summer June 18 in the one room school house on the Frederick Baker farm, Rte. 1, Janesville, with Mrs. Baker (in photo) in charge of children from 3 to 6 years of age. The little white school, located on a fourth of an acre of ground fenced in from the highway, was abandoned in 1954 when Rock Prairie district consolidated with Johnstown.

—Gazette photo



*Learning is better  
than Gold or Silver.*



*this picture taken  
about 85 to  
90 years  
ago, 1912*



*The two story building burned down when little Jimmie Haight was four years old. They then held school in the Haight parlor and little Jimmie was so naughty outside the school room that they had to let him inside to see what was going on.*



*In the background is the Congregational Church of old Johnstown.*

In 1879 Johnstown Center and Johnstown were known as graded schools, each with two departments (that meant two rooms). Seventy pupils attended Johnstown Center and fifty three attended at Johnstown.

Johnstown had two departments in 1858 with 53 pupils enrolled. Johnstown Center had two departments in 1870.



*CLASS OF MAE WHITE PLAYTER. Back row, left to right - Clifford Zanton, ----- Franzen, ----- Walt, Steve Devon, Leo Walt, ----- Addie, Herman Loerke, Bill Brummond, ----- Shadel, Marion Quigly, Mae White. Middle Row - Lyle Walt, ----- Shadel, -----, Lizzie Brummond. Front row - Philip Hull, ----- Shadel, Leona Zanton, Catherine Hull, George Rye, Inez Quigley.*





*Class of Nettie Halvorson. Back row, left to right - Mary Taylor, Ruby Gesler, Marion Peterson, Alice Pinnow, Helen Taylor, teacher - Nettie Halvorson. Front row - Jay and Mabel Taylor, Erie Schmidt, Arthur Harris, Florence Borst, Willie Borst, Grace Rye, Ruth Peterson, Ruth Rye, Ruth Scharine. About 1907 - 08*



*Back row, left to right - Ruth Rye Calkins, Ruth Scharine Meyers, Arthur Harris, Bernice Cors, Teacher - Mildred Kemmett Thorp, Grace Rye, Florence Wilber Hansen, Flora Wendt. Middle row - Lillian Harris, Harry Wendt, Walter Scharine (little guy), Volala Cors, Ruth Peterson McKillips, Lawrence Lerch, Paul Loerke, Pearl Scharine Pinnow, Ethyl Pinnow Brommond, ---- Kneeling - Clara Loerke, Lewis Loerke, ----- Falk, Erwin Loerke, ---- Falk, Arthur Wendt, ----- Falk.*



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Back Row, left to right - Aubry Walker, C. Haugen, Francis Yanke, Violet Nelson, Ethel Nelson, Hilda Strieb, Josephine Rye, Luella Schubmacher, Francis Alwin, Ruth Schubmacher. Second Row - Eddie Nelson, Lizette Schubmacher, Gordon Brummond, Doris Wilber, Marie Monabon. Front Row - George Jones, Raymond Strieb, Arnold Johnson, Theodore Rye, Robert Clark, Stephen Peters, Floyd Kitzman, Thane Peterson, Lawrence Walker.

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CLASS OF BESSIE STANTON, 1930. Back row, left to right - Bessie Stanton, Clarabelle Kitzman, Bessie Freeman, Dorothy McQuillen, Arlene Zanton, Lizzie Devan. Next row - Lawrence Walker, Violet Nelson, Thane Peterson, Francis Alwin, Luella Schubmacher, Aubrey Walker, Edna Freeman, Doris Freeman, Ruth Schubmacher Dodge, George Jones, Hilda Strieb, Josephine Rye. Front Row - Arnold Johnson, Steven Peters, Bobby Clark, Donald McQuillen, Ted Rye, Paul Strieb, Raymond Strieb.





*Class of Mrs. Ruth Scott Welcher. Row 1, left to right - Byron Ostoff, Francis Pence, Ruth Genac, Roger Hunt, Norma Crosby, Bill Hunt, Janice Taylor. Row 2, left to right - Clara Dorr, Joyce Gummo, Gloria Crosby, Ronald Ostoff, Mary Ellen Zanton, - - - - Pence, Yvonne Schmaling. Row 3, left to right - Donald Dorr, Bill Zanton, Gene Genac, Dean Rye, Mae Pence. Row 4 - Kenneth Genac, Bill Gummo, Delores Pence.*



**SENATOR CONGRATULATES WINNERS —**  
*Sen. John Kennedy (D-Mass) Friday congratulates four high school students named co-winners of a "Voice of Democracy" contest. Left to right: Mary Ellen Zanton, 17 of Janesville, Wis., Deborah Allen, 17, of Williamstown, Mass., Kennedy, Judith Buonaccorsi, 17, of San Leandro, Calif., and Ted Cooper, 16, of Portsmouth, O. (AP wirephoto)*

#### OLD JOHNSTOWN

"To recall Old Johnstown is to remember the children who were in attendance. Although a small group ( they numbered 15) they were an outstanding group.

Our big boys broke the record for the broad jump at the County Play day. Almost the entire group excelled in vocal, dramatic and intellectual ability. At least 95 percent graduated from various high schools and ten that I know of are either in attendance or have completed college.

One of our boys was valedictorian at both high school and college level. One of our girls won the "Voice of Democracy" contest in national competition and has been active in the field of drama in the East. Another boy has established and is successfully running his own business, others are farming, and as far as I know all have developed into good citizens contributing to the good of their individual communities.

It was a joy and a privilege to have had some small part in the education of those children."

Mrs. Ruth Welcher

From "Rock County Schools" published by School Superintendent's office 1864-65



## OLD JOHNSTOWN REUNION

John Fletcher, 84, who lives at the YMCA, was among the many former pupils who attended the Old Johnstown School reunion at Town Hall on the square Sunday. As the oldest pupil present he received the award - a golden rule printed on the open pages of a china book.

Other pupils who attended the school more than 70 years ago were Charles Schmaling, 78, Delavan; Mrs. Edna Arken MacArthur, 81, Milwaukee, and Allen Cogswell, 81, Milwaukee, Charles Schmaling's teacher in 1888, Mrs. Julia Arnold Martin, Emerald Grove contributed interesting reminiscences.

Among those who attended more than 50 years ago, present for the reunion were Mrs. Esther Bjorkland Johnson and Hal Peterson, Johnstown, Mrs. Alice Bjorkland Loomer, Millard and Florida; Carl Bjorkland, Chicago; Fred Gessler, Whitewater; Mrs. Josephine Taylor Clark, Janesville and Fernly Zuill, Whitewater.

Master of ceremonies was Don Morgan. A vocal solo was given by Kathryn Hull, Milton, former pupil and baritone solo by Bill Hunt, recent graduate, accompanied by Mrs. Gordon Sorenson. The roll call of teachers was answered by Mrs. Julia Arnold Martin, 1888; Mrs. Sue Rosencrans Mawhinney, Darien, 1903; Miss Edith Kemp, Rte. 1; Mrs. Mildred Kemmet Thorpe, Delavan; Mrs. Ellen Auld Weber, and Mrs. Mae White Playter, both of Janesville; Miss Ruth Martin, Emerald Grove; Mrs. Clara Duoss Rye, Mrs. Corrine Haugan Arnold and Mrs. Lilah Mawhinney Zanton, all of Johnstown.

### Program Is Given

"Rock Prairie, 1896", a poem from Mrs. Belle Haight's collection, was read by Hal Peterson; vocal numbers, were given by David and Marion Bell, children of Mr. and Mrs. David Bell, Janesville, great-grandchildren of pioneer John Haight, one of the original John's for whom the township was named; Twice told memory of her father's first day in school, Mrs. Jean Hadden Ward; songs, by Johnstown Girls Quartet, Marian Grace McLay, Susie Ullius, Jean McFarlane McLay and Mary Ellen Zanton.

The quartet sang, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" for Miss Ruth Martin and her winning kittenball team of 1936. Others of the team present were Thane Peterson, Frances Alwin, Ruth Schumacker Dodge, Luella Schumacker Schackelford. "School Days" and "Auld Lang Syne," were sung by the group.

Mrs. Flora Zuill Cushman, Jefferson, answered roll call for her sister, Frances Zuill, dean of home economics department, University of Wisconsin, who is spending the summer in Europe.

Among guests of honor were Mrs. Edith Snyder, Whitewater; the Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Sorenson, Richmond Methodist Church; Supt. and Mrs. Donald Upson and daughter, Mary; Mmes. Lew Nickerson, Nell Rye, Pete White and Minnie Kitzman, all of Janesville.

Mrs. Esther Johnson had charge of the guest book. Guests registered from Milwaukee, Chicago, Beloit, Darien, Delavan, Whitewater, Richmond, Milton, Milton Junction, Kenosha, Stoughton, Millard, Emerald Grove, Madison and Janesville.



### Old Texts Exhibited

Three hundred attended the dinner that was in charge of Mrs. Hal Peterson. The honored guests table was centered with a cake shaped as an open book encribed "Old Johnstown School Reunion," and adorned with golden roses. Mrs. Darlene Wagner Zanton made the cake.

Delphinium, roses and sweet William decorated the hall. The flowers were taken to the graves of former beloved classmates, Gordon Brummond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Brummond, Whitewater and Aubrey Walker, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Walker, Milton.

There was a display of old text books, slates and pictures dating back to 1850. Miss Florence Hull's picture showed the original two-story frame school which was destroyed by fire in 1863.

Letters were read from the following former teachers: Mrs. Florence Main Shoultz, Cheyenne, Wyo., 1904; Mrs. June Hunt Cox, Compton, Calif., 1942; and Mrs. Agnes McManus McGinnis, Whitewater; 1900, and from the following pupils: Mrs. Mary Rye Merrill, Bedford, Ohio, who was also a teacher; Phyllis Murphy Wright, Benton, La.; Philip Hull, Janesville, and Mrs. Clara Cummings, Payne, Fond du Lac.

- Janesville Gazette -

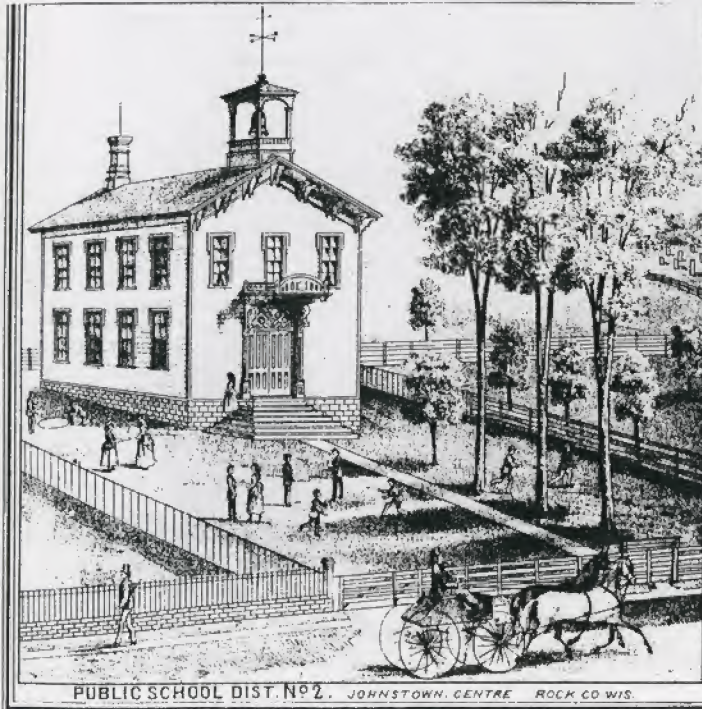
#579



Johnstown Center

Edith Adams Hanthorne, Sadie Gourley, Carrie Adams, Catherine Burrows, Agnes Gourley Wilke, Bill Weber, John Hall, Charley Kelly, Hartley Summers, Iola Millard, Raymond Kelly, Merle Hanson, Russell Kelly.





### SCHOOL PROBLEMS BY MRS. MINNIE MORSE

The schoolboards had their problems back in those days. When the farm boys got big enough to help their fathers with the farm work they only went to school during the winter months. Some of them, as a result, were almost grown men and going to school. One winter they got so out of hand in the Johnstown Center School, that the teacher could not handle them.

One day they threw the teacher out the window and the school was closed. The teacher refused to teach anymore. The story got around and the board was unable to hire another teacher. Sometime later a Mr. Tracy, who lived in the Richmond area, who was not a teacher but did have a high school education came and told the board that he believed he could teach the school if they would let him do it in his own way. He taught for the balance of the year with a shotgun on the top of his desk and there was no more trouble.

The school at North Johnstown, which I attended, used another method. They had two grown boys who caused a lot of trouble, so the school board used their heads. They bought several cords of wood and hired the two boys to saw it up with a bucksaw at recess and during the noon hour. Since the old round oak stove burned a lot of wood, they didn't have much time to cause trouble. If they did have extra on hand, it was a part of their job to carry it and pile it in the woodshed.



The Center school had O. B. Hall for a teacher at one time. He was teaching in the winter term when discipline was a problem. O. B. Hall kept order by 'coming down hard.'

Farm work kept many of the older boys home a great deal of the time. These boys were still in their primer reader. Upon one occasion, a huge muscular boy took his turn before the class and read haltingly, "I am the big goose, and these are all my little ones."

This brought the entire class to a howl of laughter and O. B. Hall had to 'come down hard.'

Susan Mawhinney



CLASS OF MISS MARGARET DECKER, 1905-06. Back row, left to right - Billy Campbell, Alex McLean, Ray Austin, Ethyl Hall Kumlien, David Bell, Reuben Pember, Billy Duert, Miss Margaret Decker. Next row down - Albert Hall, Margaret Bell, Gregory Hall, Marjorie Hall, Mae White, ----- Pierce, -----, Isabelle Campbell, Billy Campbell. Next row down - ----- McLain, Robert Bell, Prissila Duert, George McFarland, Ike Hall, (visitor for the day, cousin of the Kellys) Ethyl Kady, Willie Anderson, Nellie Logan Harris. In front of the steps - Delilah Pember and Irma Hall. To the right in the white dress, Isabelle Pember and in back of her ----- Campbell.





*JOHNSTOWN CENTER — Last day of school — Top row - Ray Stoller, Carr Kumlien, Bill Pratt, ---- Solem, Floyd Millard, Harold Hall, Bill Gourley, Fred Pratt, Alexander McLay, ----- , Roy Millard, Bob White.*



*THE LADIES on the last day of school — Top row - Susan White, Elizabeth Pratt, Ethyl Kumlien, Myra Briggs, (wide brimmed hat), Mrs. Clarence Weber, Zella Hanthorne, Gussie Caldo, Ella Joyce, Jane Millard, Alice Millard, Fannie McKillips (in black hat) Agnes Vickerman, Maggie Morton, Mrs. Ed Austin. Seated — Emma Hall, Ella Reeder, Lizzie White, Wynne Kelly, Mrs. ---- Adams, Mrs. Solem Stoller.*





*JOHNSTOWN CENTER SCHOOL 1913 — Left to right top row - Grace Calkines, Jimmie Bullis, Ed Pierce, Margaret Bell, James Plumb, Mae White, Gladys Millard, Teacher, Sue Dorr. Middle row — Bill Gourley, Bill Anderson, Albert Hall, Bob Bullis, Esta Will, Alexander McLean, Bernes Will, George McFarlane. Bottom row — Agnes Gourley, Francis Gourley, Mary Plumb, Margaret Connors, James White, Blanche Wanke, Marie Hall, Carl Will, Bob Connors.*



*JOHNSTOWN CENTER - Left to right, back row - Lillian Foreman, Margaret Scott, Teacher - Miss O'Leary, June Hall, Harriet Judd, May Bahl, Esther Hasse, Verna Adams, Jim Joyce, Wynne Winslow, Middle row - Marie Foreman, Jo Playter, Arthur "Bud" Adam, Bobby Parkin, Hazel Hasse, Warren Scott, Elaine Hasse, Jean Playter, Bill Moore, Lydia Adam, Elmer Hasse, Junior Playter. Seated - Marjorie Judd, John Judd, Ivan Morse.*





*CLASS OF JEAN HADDEN WARD. Top Row, left to right - Fred Pratt, Carley Wills, Maud Gurley Playter, Marie Hall Johnson, Mary Plumb Perkins, Bernice Wells Hanthorn, Jean Hadden Ward, Mary Kelly Cunningham, Wilma Foreman Richardson, Catherine Pierce Cunningham. The one boy and one girl spaced far apart on the next step down - Bill Weber, and -----, Next Row - Floyd Millard, -----, -----, Roy Millard, Russell Caldo, Cary Adams, Edith Adams Hanthorn, Kenneth Dike, Genieve Kelly, Lillian Pierce Mullen, Helen Broderick, Julia Pierce Mullen, Ellen McLean. Front row -----, Gerald Hall, -----, Lyle Millard, John Hall, John McLean, Harold Anderson, Charley Kelly, Sadie Gorley, Mary Dike, Lillian Kelly, Agnes Gorley.*

#### STONE SCHOOL ( 98)



*STONE SCHOOL, BEVENS SCHOOL, DISTRICT 8. The stone from which this building was made came from the old W. H. Newton stone quarry in Section 9. The building was razed, June 19, 1929 and the stone used for the roads by road patrolman, J. J. Fanning.*



The following essays were written by the children after moving into the new school.

The following essays were written by the children after moving into the new school.

## MOVING DAY AT JOHNSTOWN

We had to start school in some of the old schools. The sixth, seventh and eighth grades had to go to the Johnstown Town Hall. The sixth and seventh grades were in one-half of the room and the seventh and eighth were in the other half. The Hall is just one big room and a kitchen. We had to put a curtain in the middle of the big room to make two rooms. I thought we would never get to move into the new school.

The day finally came when we could move into the new school. The day we had to move into the new school we had a radio program to broadcast. We came back from the radio program and came into the new school. We were a little slow getting started and getting organized.

It was much nicer in the new school than being in the town hall. At the new school we had more room to play more equipment to use. It took a while to get everything moved into its proper place. We moved into the new school November 13, 1954. They had some trucks to move all of the things that belonged in the new school. After we moved into the new school things were much more convenient than in the town hall or in the old school. There were a quite a few changes after we moved into the new school.

## WHAT I LIKED ABOUT THIS SCHOOL

When we were in the school we didn't have as much time to work on our school work. But now we have more time to work because there are only two grades in one room. In the old school we froze. In the new school we could turn off the heat but in the new school the heat will not work as well. But we can play together with the other boys and girls. But we cannot play on the merry go round.

## OUR NEW SCHOOL

Our new school is situated on County Trunk "A" about ten miles east of Janesville. It is a low building with six rooms, three rooms on each side and a big gymnasium at one end. Just off the gym there is a kitchen which has not yet been fully equipped.

The first grade room is a nice, bright room with twenty-one children attending. The second grade is also a nice, bright room with twenty-two children attending. The third and fourth grade room has twenty-nine children and also twenty-nine children in the fourth and fifth grade room. The sixth and seventh grade room has twenty-six children attending and last, the seventh and eighth grade room with twenty-seven attending.

There are two busses that pick up and take home the children. Messrs. Ole Hanthorn and Francis Kosharek drive the busses and Mr. Hanthorn owns both busses.

## OUR NEW SCHOOL

The first consolidated school I had ever seen was the Johnstown Community School which is about ten miles east of Janesville on County Trunk "A".

The school is a large brick building with six class rooms, a principals office, a girls lavatory and a boys lavatory. There is a kitchen, a gymnasium, a janitor's closet, and an equipment closet. Also, a large basement.

We have six nice teachers. They are Mrs. Bladorn who is the first grade teacher, Miss Moran who teaches the second grade, Mrs. Brown is the third and fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Collins teaches fourth and fifth grades, Mr. Borreson is the sixth and seventh grade teacher and Mr. Abelmann teaches the seventh and eighth grades and is also the principal of our school. Each teacher has thirty or less pupils in his room.

We have two other teachers. Mrs. Zipse is the music teacher. She comes every Monday. Mr. Palmer the speech correctionist comes every Monday.

Each class room has a sink and book shelves. We have big picture windows that run along one side of all the rooms. They are frost free windows.

We have a large playground area of about four to five acres. We have a lot of playground equipment such as slides, swings, seesaws, trapeze bars, and bats and balls.

For use in our gymnasium we have volley balls, big red rubber balls and basketballs.

The members of the school board are Mrs. Rye, Mr. Moore, Mr. Scharine, Mr. Rusch and Mr. Merriam. We have them to thank for our new school.

## WHAT I LIKE BEST ABOUT THE NEW SCHOOL

What I like best about the new school is the big rooms and picture windows. I also like all the modern conveniences, new equipment and huge gym.

There is a wide hall with two drinking fountains at one end, On each end of the hall are double doors.

There is a six acre playground with swings, merry-go-round, monkey bars, and a slide. Down further we have a ball diamond and have built some grass huts.

In each room there is a piano, a clock, a bulletin board, a cabinet, a sink, a towel dispenser, a library, two long chalk boards, and an electric lighting and heating system. It is nice also because it is long and spread out.

There are two rooms in the basement. In one there is the furnace and in the other is a davenport and a table full of books.

We have two models of desks, both of which can be altered to the desired height.

In the principals office there is two doors and a big picture window. There is also a new grey tin desk. He has one picture window looking inside and another looking into the room.

Out in front there is a small gravel road and an American Flag.



## CLOSING OF THE OLD SCHOOL

The closing of the old schools was wasteful. I think they were wasteful because the school we came out of wasn't very old, and was very good lumber. And when we left it was getting good use. There are rats running around now and also spiders around. They put the schools up for sale. But some weren't bought. And the ones that weren't bought are all rotting and going to waste. So I don't think it is a good thing to move from one good school to another. But I also like the new school and it is very nice.

The following items are from the gossip column of the "Flash" school newspaper of the Johnstown Community School.

Larry Marty has an angora cat named Hairy.  
Marlene Fanning has a new kitten named Fluffy.  
Beverly Bahl has two dogs. One of them ate the linoleum.  
A certain seventh grade boy has been tripping a certain seventh grade girl. Would that mean anything to you?  
Nancy Gilmore has been ill for sometime. Last week Lynn Johnson was absent.

## Johnstown Community Grade School Opens



First Grade Children Listen to Pinocchio Story

Nov. 21, Wis. State Journal, 1954

### SEVERAL TOWNS UNITE TO BUILD MODERN UNIT

by Gladys Waterman (State Journal Correspondent)

**JANESVILLE** — The work of several communities has gone into the beautiful modern grade school at Johnstown, east of Janesville, which was opened last week.

It took two referenda to put the consolidation across and work on the part of many to get the project completed. Instrumental in sparking the plan was Clifford Zanton, Johnstown town chairman.

Last summer the voters approved a new grade school, set a school levy of \$27,000, and elected a five-member board. Elected to the board were George Moore, president; Mrs. Ralph Rye, clerk; Edward Goodger, treasurer; Albert Scharine, director, and the Rev. Reginald White. Since Mr. White has accepted a new pastorate, Don Merriam has been selected to fill the position.

### OTHERS NAMED

Serving on the building committee were Mrs. Emmett Arnold, Mrs. Donald Dodge, I. G. Hall, Donald Morgan, Adolph Karlin, Alvin Nelson, Mrs. Fred Wehler, and Sylvester Wilcox. This committee and the newly elected board spent hours on the planning during the summer and fall. The board is still

working though the building is open. The gym and kitchen are still under construction. Then there will be both rooms to equip, and no school is complete without a dedication.

Included in the new district named the Johnstown Community School District No. 2 are the rural districts of Wehler, Rock Prairie, Plainview, Johnston Center, Old Johnstown, Bevins, Palmer, and Maple View. The Plainview district petitioned to come in after the plan had been set up.

Estimated cost of the building was \$88,268, but the figure was increased by additional requirements. The new equipment will cost \$2,156, and includes blond furniture, Venetian blinds and kitchen equipment.

### SIX CLASSROOMS

The building was the work of the Zimzow Construction Co., Elkhorn, and consists of six classrooms, each 24 x 32 feet, a lobby, washrooms, an office, a 40 by 60 foot all-purpose room, and a 40 by 14 foot stage. The gym is 76 by 45 feet, and will have an inlaid basketball court on the tile.

Waylite blocks are used on the one-floor, L-shaped structure.

Designing the building was J. W. Klund of Gansewitz and Cashin of Madison. As of Tuesday the enrollment is 157.

Paul Ablemann is the new principal this year, having come to Johnstown from Orfordville. He is a graduate of Whitewater state college and has attended Ripon College and the University of Wisconsin.

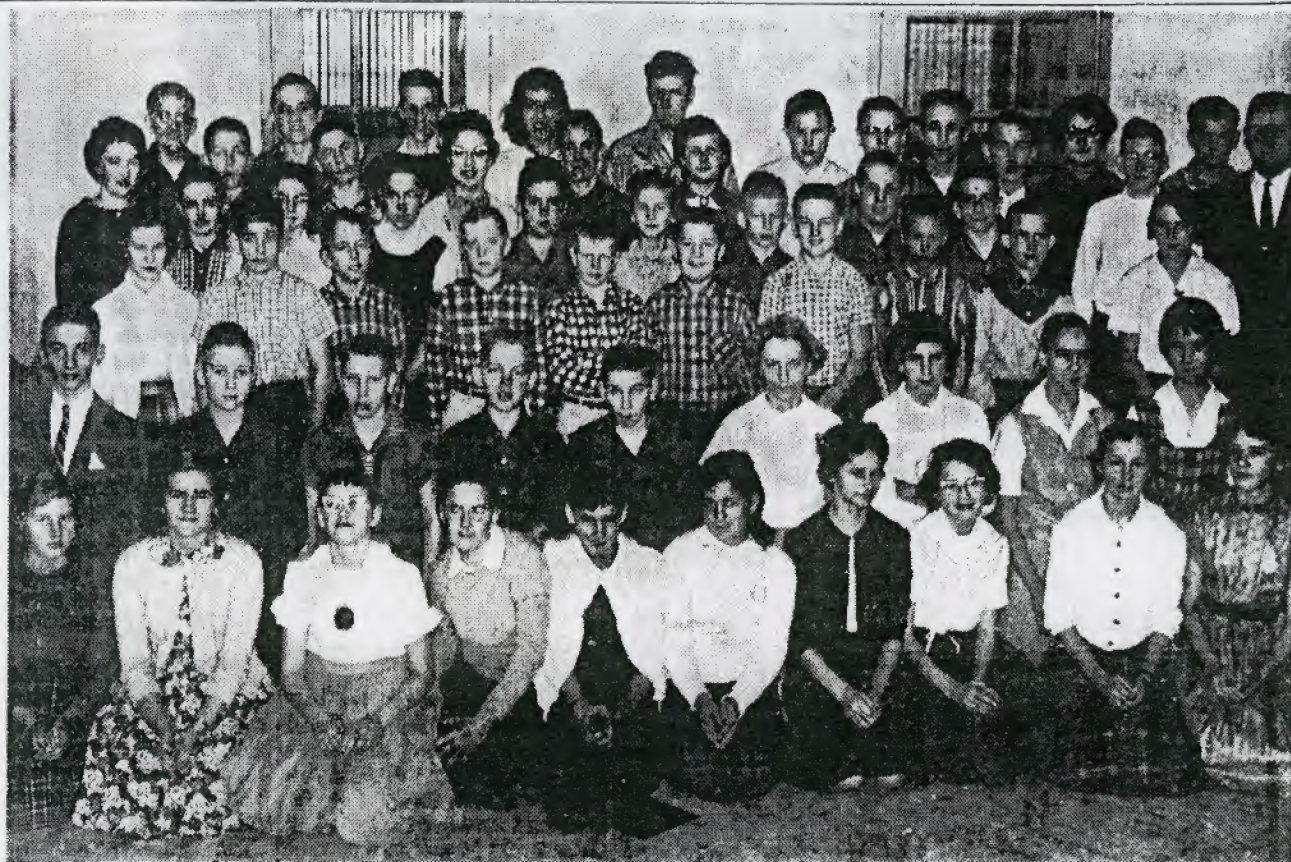


Compiled and Edited  
Weekly for Children of  
Southern Wisconsin. Espe-  
cially Pupils of the Rural  
and State Graded Schools  
in that area.

# The Junior JANESVILLE GAZETTE

Special School Program  
Broadcast by WCLO from  
9:05 to 9:20 a. m. Monday  
through Thursday. Music,  
News and Other Features.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1960



—Gazette photo

**ABOUT NEXT PRESIDENT?**—Upper graders of the Johnstown Community School discussed seven possible presidential candidates and facts about the forthcoming election in an interesting WCLO Schoolltime program. Possibilities mentioned by the pupils were Kennedy, Nixon, Rockefeller, Mitchell, Johnson, Stevenson and Humphrey.

The large group, which practically filled the WCLO studios, consisted of the following:

First row, from left, Shirley Van Wyhe, Barbara Bahl, Carol Henry, Joyce Gisler, Shirley Acker, Barbara Dahl, Kathy Carlson, Bonnie Brown, Janet McQuillen, Diana Brown.

Second row, Donald Day, David Longman, Larry Roberts, Billy Maas, Roger Morse, Janene Carlson, Myrta Hunt, Sandra Schneider, Judy Kosharek.

Third row, Carol Kelly, Richard Dahl, Jerry Kosharek, Luther Johnson, David Johnson, Jimmy Kosharek, Dan Janes, Johnny Skelton, Steve Malone, Gladys Owens.

Fourth row, Richard Cooper, Mary Albrecht, Judy Gisler, Terry Taylor, Jeanette Addie, Gary Duoss, Jack McKibbin, Tommy Hanthorn.

Fifth row, Mrs. Ellen Farrington, teacher, John Myszewski, Joe Gisler, Sue Newton, Richard Fanning, Carol Kruienza, Charles McKibbin, Dave Schmaling, Duane Kruienza, Eldon Sonnenburg, principal.

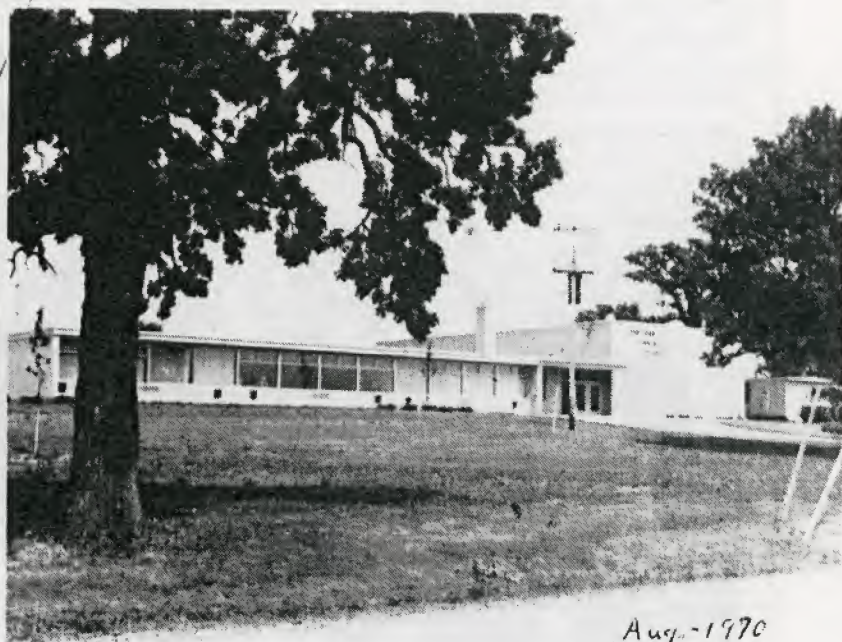
Back row, David Schultz, Gary Mawhinney, John Janes, Beverly Campbell, Ken Page, Mary Bellis, Phil Marty, Sherry Derr, Jim Poteat.

Jan. 29





*First kindergarten class in Johnstown Township — The classes were held in the Johnstown Town Hall for one term. During the next year classes were held in the Johnstown Community School. 1964 - 65.*



Johnstown Community School

*Aug. - 1970*



*-Gazette Photo*

*RED, WHITE AND BLUE MEANS FREEDOM — Pupils of the Johnstown Community School spoke of how their ancestors fought and died for freedom and they sang of freedom and the glories of this nation on WCLO Schooltime. The patriotic program was presented by, front row from left, Patty Mawhinney, Jerry Brown, Steven Wehler, Dennis Dahler, Alan Clark, Jackie Millard, Rosemary Carlson, Judy McQuillen, Anna Lux, Linda Morse; second row, Sandy Carlson, Beverly Deegan, Debbie Slowey, Jeanne Gray, Carol Fisher, Keith Richard, Joseph Schafer, John Kosharek, Janet Slowey, Diane Faldet, Kathy Robbins, Monica Duoss; back row, Tom Venable, Melody Henry, Mary Duoss, Sue Gray, Connie Morse, Rae Ann Tilton, Mary Venable, Mike Janes, Mari Mathesius, Roy Stafford, Debbie Wellnitz, Caroline Wehler, Mrs. Deanna Carney, Teacher, and Mrs. Leona Kislia, music teacher.*



## PLAINVIEW SCHOOL

(District No. 4)

-by Vivian Sturtevant

when Charles A. Shattuck sold one-half acre of land to School District No. 4 of the Township of Johnstown, Rock County, Territory of Wisconsin. The agreement was made between Shattuck, his wife Lucinda, and the trustees of the school district - Roswell Rice, Timothy N. Whiting, and Ellis F. Whiting.<sup>1</sup> The indenture,<sup>2</sup> written by E. F. Whiting, is the only record found for the period 1846 - 67; therefore a big gap in information exists for this period in the history of District No. 4.

When the first school building was erected is not recorded, but it seems reasonable to presume it was built the same year the land was acquired, 1846. Because of the desire for a school building, the district was probably formed just prior to the purchase of the land. However, no records were researched to support these presumptions.

After the Territorial Legislature of Wisconsin had created Rock County, adventurous men, many with their families, came to Rock County to purchase land from the U. S. Government in the area later known as Johnstown. The first claims in the District No. 4 area were made in 1839. Most of the claims were made when John Tyler was President of the United States, 1841-45, and all of the land claims were recorded by 1847.<sup>3</sup> According to early biographical histories, it seems the people who settled in North Johnstown, specifically, District No. 4, came mostly from New York State. Following is a list of those men who made claims to land in this district: John Goold, Roswell Rice, Jr., M. Rice, S. Whiting, W. Janes, G. Green, R. Webb, D. Hampton, B. F. Cary, Humphrey Janes, J. C. Whiting, S. W. Eaton, Ezra Wright, Wm. Webb, A. Aldrich, Richard M. Cary, L. H. Titus, M. O. Walker, E. F. Whiting, T. R. Richards, Ephriam Cary, C. Johnson, J. Hough, L. W. Hudson, G. B. Hardy, C. Dickerman, M. J. Baker, H. Pember, John A. Pickens, J. Corliss, D. McKillips, J. B. Pickett, J. Teetshorn, Clark Lawrence.<sup>4</sup>

1 See biographical sketches at the end of this article.

2 ABSTRACT VOLUME E 16, Rock County Register of Deeds, p.327.

3 GOVERNMENT ENTRY BOOK on file at the Rock County Register of Deeds.

4 IBID.



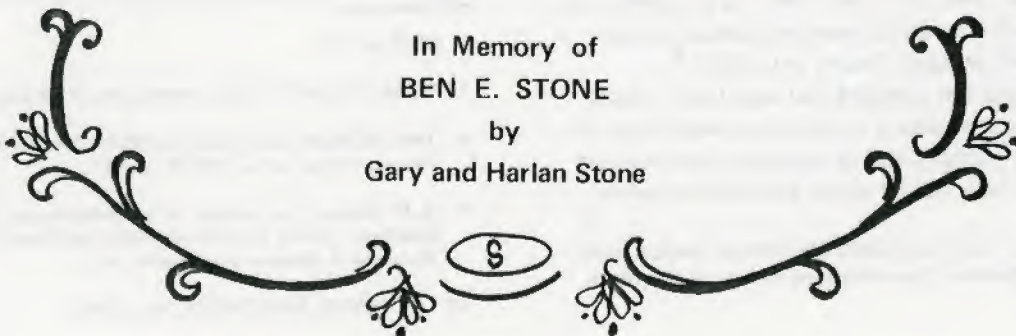
PLAINVIEW SCHOOL after 1916 - What appears to be a sawhorse in front of the building is a teeter-totter.

After discovering a school Clerks' Book, my interest in local history was stimulated. At this time The Johnstown Album was being prepared, and I was encouraged to prepare this article on the history of Plainview School District. The school was located in North Johnstown at the intersection of Six Corners Road and Scharine Road, (Fire No. 111). At the northwest corner of this intersection is located a U. S. Geological Survey Bench Mark on which is inscribed "Elevation above Sea. 947 feet, 10 MZ, 1958."

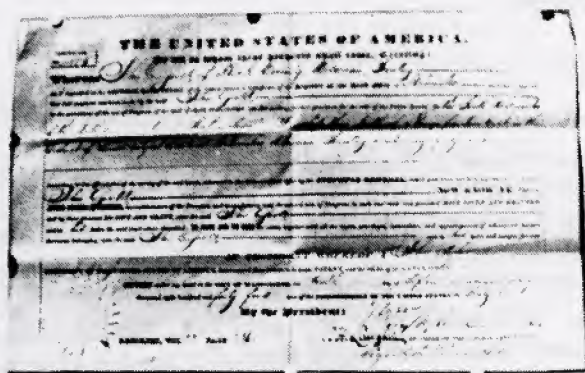
The development of Plainview School might be considered typical of the one-room school common in early Wisconsin history and until the 1950's.

Even before Wisconsin became a state, there was a school in District No. 4. It probably started on January 23, 1846,

In Memory of  
BEN E. STONE  
by  
Gary and Harlan Stone







*Certificate granted John Goold of Rock County, Wisconsin Territory, September 10, 1844, for purchase of 40 acres of public land, signed by John Tyler, Pres.*

According to an abstract of title, John Goold moved to Dane County and no doubt others from the above list moved to greener pastures. Also, others merely had holdings here, mostly in the wooded area, and did not reside here; and a few, such as John A. Pickett, were land speculators. However, many of these early settlers who were granted Government Patents remained and established farms, for their names are found in the local cemeteries. Too, the reader will note many of these names repeated throughout this article, and for some readers it will be interesting to find their ancestors mentioned.

#### Early School Government

Wisconsin was part of the Michigan Territory from 1818 to 1836. In 1836 an act of the U. S. Government created the Wisconsin Territory. The same laws that were set up for the Michigan territory were extended to the new territory, including the school code. This original school code remained in existence, with some amendments, until the State Constitution was drafted. The early settlers wanted free schools and frequently maintained community-sponsored schools before a school district was formally organized. Districts were often legally organized when there was a need for a school building. The school code provided that district taxes on general property be used to build schools. Instructional costs were sometimes financed by the rate-bill, a tax levied upon parents in proportion to the number of children they had in school. In 1839 the rate-bill was repealed and a county tax provided for building schoolhouses. Rock County had a school tax of two and one-half mills in 1840, 1841, and 1842. As no county tax was apparently levied after 1842, town and district taxation supported the schools in Rock County until 1848.<sup>5</sup>

In 1840 a territorial law provided that each town should elect three school commissioners to manage school lands, to examine and certify teachers, and to organize school districts within their towns. Each district was to elect three trustees,

a clerk, and a collector. Only male residents over the age of twenty-one were entitled to vote at district meetings.<sup>6</sup>

When District No. 4 was organized in 1846, the school commissioners for Johnstown were Willard Farnham, Lewis W. Hudson, and Hiram C. Bull.<sup>7</sup> Lewis W. Hudson (No. 123) lived next to Ellis F. Whiting (No. 121), who was one of the trustees for District No. 4 when it was organized.

Under the school code there was no territorial fund for schools. In 1846, when District No. 4 was created, the state constitution was being drafted; and throughout the territory people were eager to establish a free-school system supported by taxes. Until a state government was organized, the funds from the sale of school lands were not available. Congress donated land to all new states for educational purposes. The land donated was the sixteenth section in every township in the state. Also, the state was entitled to 500,000 acres within the state which could be used for education, and any grant of land from the United States which was not earmarked could also be used. To be able to take advantage of these federal land grants was a big push in the forming of the state constitution.<sup>8</sup>

The first constitutional convention failed to construct a constitution which the people would accept. The article on education was widely accepted, but the constitution was rejected for other reasons, mainly because of the section on banks.

The second constitutional convention was successful in forming a constitution which the people ratified. The second convention consisted of 66 members, and Almerin M. Carter, a farmer from Johnstown, was one of six representatives from Rock County. There were six standing committees, and A. M. Carter served on the General Provisions Committee, which prepared the business to be placed before the convention. This committee was called the "breaking team." On December 22, 1847, A. M. Carter introduced a resolution, "that the Committee on Schools and Education be directed or requested to enquire into the expediency of establishing a system of free schools and to report them for the consideration of the Convention. This was the first start for free schools."<sup>9</sup>

During the territorial period the town boards of school commissioners had supervised the schools. After statehood the authority was vested in one official, the town school superintendent. Leister Hulce, who lived in District No. 4 (No. 118), was elected Town Superintendent of Common Schools in 1850, 1851, and 1852.<sup>10</sup> Mr. Hulce served as treasurer of District No. 4 for two terms, 1867-73. As there are no school records previous to 1867, there is no proof that he served the district before this time; but it is quite possible that he did because of his apparent interest in school business.

In 1869 a state enactment authorized townships to adopt by vote the township system of School Government. Under

6. *IBID.*, p. 19.

7. *TOWN CLERKS' BOOK*, Johnstown, Rock County, 1843-1868, p. 13.

8. *THE HISTORY OF ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN*, (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1879), p. 141.

9. A. M. Carter, "An Account of the Adoption of our State Constitution," on file at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Archives & Manuscripts Division, p. 2.

10. *TOWN CLERKS' BOOK*, pp. 47-92.

5. Lloyd P. Jorgenson, *THE FOUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN WISCONSIN*, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1956), pp. 39-40.



this system each township was one school district, and the school districts within the towns became subdistricts. Each subdistrict elected a clerk, and the clerks constituted the board of school directors for the township. The town board of supervisors had the authority to establish and alter school districts. The district clerks reported annually to the town clerks, the town clerks to the county superintendents, and the county superintendent to the state superintendent, who made an annual report to the governor. <sup>11</sup>

A list of property to be taxed was prepared by the district board and given to the town supervisors, who made the assessments. When Richard Cary, Clerk of District No. 4, recorded the minutes for the annual meeting of September 27, 1869, he also made the following copy of his annual report to the Town Clerk, Thompson:

The amount of taxes voted to be raised in School District No. 4 of the Town of Johnstown at the last annual meeting of said District held on the 27 day of Sept. 1869 is one hundred and twenty dollars: which amount you are requested to assess upon the taxable property therein.

The following is a list of the persons and corporations liable to a school district tax therein: Roswell Rice, Thomas Rice, James Wheeler, Joseph Eli, H. N. Teetshorn, Bridget Kelliin, Susanah Cary, Melvin Cary, A. J. Cary, Pattersen Wright, Westby Wright, George Wright, B. F. Cary, Ephriam Cary, Richard Cary, Samuel Bullock, John Ward, Henry R. Osborn, Leister Hulse, Mack. <sup>12</sup>

Following is a copy of the treasurer's report by Leister Hulse on September 26, 1870, showing the total income which was used to operate the school for one year. <sup>13</sup>

Balance on Hand	\$193.83
Jan. 11, 1870 - District Tax	120.00
Feb. 8, 1870 - County money	48.70
Aug. 13, 1870 - State Fund	17.62
Total Received	\$380.15

It is difficult to establish the first boundaries of District No. 4, for there are no early education records on file in the county. No doubt the boundaries varied a little over the years. When District No. 4 was first organized, the boundaries must have extended east to the County Line Road because Ellis F. Whiting (No. 121) was one of the trustees. It must have included all of Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, and the north one-half of Sections 13, 14, and 15.

A large township map <sup>14</sup> constructed by a town clerk in the early 1880's outlined school districts. The only variance from the above description was that only the quarter sections on the west side of Sections 1, 12, and 13 were included in Dis-

trict No. 4. Following is a list of landowners (including present fire numbers where possible) who were shown for District No. 4: T. E. Rice (22), James Wheeler (113), Roswell Rice, Est. (12), L. W. Hudson, Est. (123), Joseph Ely (112), H. N. Teetshorn (114), B. F. Cary, G. W. Wright, P. Wright, Est., Richard Cary (141), A. C. Rice, C. A. Rice (142), Ephriam Cary (116), E. L. Cary, Stephen Fanning (118), F. O. Wheeler (122), James Gentle (151), John Malone (107), Patrick Quigley (92), Bartlett Fanning (101), John Stevens, W. H. Woodstock (102), Frank Blunt (145), Robert Lamb.

In 1889 the Town Supervisors altered School Districts No. 2, 4, and 8 as follows:

It is hereby ordered and determined that the South one half of Section No. 15 and the North East one fourth of Section No. 16 of School District No. 2 and the North one half of Section No. 15 and the South one half of Section No. 10 of School District No. 4 and the South one fourth of Section 9 and North East one fourth of Section 16 of School District No. 8 and is hereby taken from said districts and formed into a new school to be known as School District No. 12 of said Johnstown for all purposes whatsoever. This order will take effect on the 9th day of August 1889. <sup>15</sup>

#### 1867 - 1936

Beginning with the annual meeting of September 30, 1867, and ending with the 1935 - 36 school year, the records of School District No. 4 are preserved in the CLERKS' BOOK. Albert Scharine claims possession of this rare record book on the basis that he was the last officer to serve the district. At the time Plainview District was dissolved, Scharine was Director; and when the district consolidated, he was the first Director for the new Johnstown Community School.

In the fall of 1867 there was held a series of five meetings which must have been momentous to these early pioneers. An important task facing the district was repairing the existing schoolhouse. At the annual meeting on September 30, 1867, the group of interested citizens who gathered at the schoolhouse organized by electing Merrit Case chairman. The following resolution was passed:

Resolved: That we repair this schoolhouse by sheeting it up outside with wet lumber and siding over it, sheet up inside and plaster on the sheeting down to the bottom of the window frames and sash, lay a new floor, build an entry over the door, put under a good foundation, reseal with the best improved seats, reshingle the roof, & that the whole be well painted three coats outside, & two inside and such other repairs as shall be necessary. Voted that the above repairs be completed in time for school the coming winter. <sup>16</sup>

As they did not finish their school business, these concerned citizens voted to meet again on October 7 at 7 p.m. At this meeting they "voted to have four months school the ensuing

11 THE HISTORY OF ROCK COUNTY, pp. 146-7.

12 SCHOOL CLERKS' BOOK, District No. 4, Johnstown, 1867 - 1936, p. 10

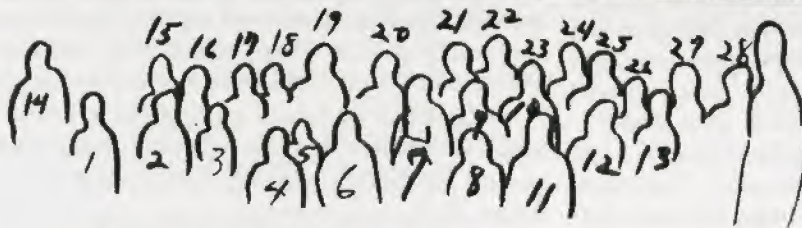
13 IBID., p. 14.

14 Map in the possession of Mrs. Lilah Zanton, Avalon, Wisconsin.

15 TOWN CLERKS' BOOK, p. 116.

16 SCHOOL CLERKS' BOOK, p. 1.





DISTRICT NO. 4 SCHOOL  
BUILDING before the front  
part was added.

1906 — RENA GREEN, TEACHER. Not all pupils were present for the photograph. (1) Ralph Titus (2) Henry Kitzman (3) George Schmaling (4) Edwin Malone (5) Alna Teresa Malone (6) Eulala Cors (7) Bernice Cors (8) Cleone Pierce (9) Mabel Kitzman (10) Gladys Cary (11) Leo Malone (12) Esther Mathews (13) William Schmaling (14) Maltby Cors (15) Bennie Stone (16) Eddie Kitzman (17) Lilah Haag (18) Ruth Malone (19) Agnes Malone (20) - - (21) Ida Mathews (22) Merle Rice (23) Lizzie Kitzman (24) Francis Lerwell (25) Gladys Wetmore (26) Leota Pitt (27) Edwin Mathews (28) Margaret Malone.

winter & not to exceed six months in the summer. Voted to raise twenty-five dollars to purchase wood. Voted to raise fifteen dollars to purchase land to enlarge the site of the school house.”<sup>17</sup>

At the next special meeting, October 19, 1867, as recorded by Ephriam Cary, Clerk, it was decided to build a new school building instead of repairing the old one.

Resolved, That we build a Schoolhouse 22 by 24, height twelve feet, balloon frame. Studing (sic) & joice (sic) to be six inches apart from centre to centre. Size of timber joice 2. by 6. Studing 2. by 4. To be sheeted outside with common inch boards & sided with clear siding, finished with a plain finish. To be six windows glass 9 by 11 check sash, finished with good snaps, casing moulded, floor to be double, lining to be common inch boards, outside be diminution

boards twelve inches wide or good fencing plained (sic) & jointed well seasoned.

Inside to be sealed up to the windows with good second clear flooring, the remainder to be lathed & plastered with two coats. Chimney to start below ceiling. Stove pipe to enter below, foundation of Stone, height in front one foot above surface with trench six inches below good substantial wall laid in lime motar. Roof to be made of best A Shingles & good boards well nailed. An entry to build over the door five by six, sided outside & sealed inside with common inch boards, floor same as inside. Doors to be double battened made of flooring hung with 1½ pair butts to each door, outside door to be furnished with good strong rim lock & key. To be painted two coats outside with pure white lead & Oil, inside to be led color. The above work to be done in the best workmanlike manner.

Resolved that the resolution passed at the annual meeting to repair school house be recinded & that the money voted for said repairs be applied to the building of a new house.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> IBID., p. 2.

<sup>18</sup> IBID., pp. 2-3.



It was voted to adjourn to Monday, October 21, at which time the following resolutions were passed: "Resolved, That we raise one hundred & eighty-five dollars in addition to the amount voted at the annual meeting. Resolved, That a new schoolhouse be furnished with window blinds." <sup>19</sup>

One might conclude from the above descriptions that the old school building, which was used from 1846 to 1867, was never really finished. It must have been a very rough frame structure with no foundation, or it could have been an old log structure because this was a heavily wooded area.

Then on October 31, 1867, it was voted to authorize the District Board to sell the old schoolhouse. According to the treasurer's report, dated August 21, 1868, the old building was sold to B. F. Cary for \$26.30. On February 10, 1868, the additional land was purchased from Horatio N. Teetshorn for \$15. <sup>20</sup>(This purchase is *not* recorded at the Register of Deeds office.) No mention is made of how much land was purchased; however, it must have been about one-half acre. No other land purchases or gifts are mentioned in the reports, nor are any other land acquisitions or dispositions recorded with the County Register of Deeds. Therefore, the size of the school site remained about one acre from 1868 until the district was dissolved in 1954.

It is reasonable to assume that the schoolhouse was completed according to plan and that classes were conducted, starting in the winter; for the treasurer's report lists an order drawn on February 9, 1868, (for \$9.58) to M. Janes for teaching. <sup>21</sup> Consequently, for \$585 District No. 4 possessed a new schoolhouse on an enlarged site in time for the Winter Term, 1868.

Some other happenings taken from the records <sup>22</sup> for this period (1867-1936) are noted in the remainder of this section.

Minutes of the annual meetings of District No. 4 during the period 1867-1900 are difficult to read because of the fancy old English script with its shadings. After about 1900 this fancy script disappears. From 1867 to 1878 the annual school meetings were held the last Monday of September, as established by state law. Some names mentioned in the records from 1867-78 are George Wright, chopping wood; Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Ely, Thankful Wright, and Mrs. Craig, cleaning school; H. R. Osborn, John Parkyn, and Joseph Lloyd, meeting chairmen.

In September 1868 it was voted to have nine months of school, to raise \$200 for teachers' wages the ensuing year, to raise \$75 to fence the schoolhouse site, to raise \$25 to build a privy.

In 1869 and 1870 it was voted to have only eight months of school and in 1871, nine months. Then in 1872, 1873, and 1874 it was voted to have seven months of school-- four months in winter and three months in summer. In 1875, 1876, and 1877 it was voted to have eight months of school. Every year from 1878 to 1934 it was voted to have nine months of school, with the exception of the years 1905 to 1909 when it was voted to have nine and one-half months of school. From 1895 to 1904 the terms were divided - - winter, four months; spring, two and one-half months; fall, two and one-half months. From 1910 to 1934 teachers were hired on a yearly basis and paid by the month. There is no indication of terms after 1909.

In 1878 a state law changed the annual school meeting date to the last Monday in August. Again in 1882 the meeting date was changed by the state legislature to the first Monday in July.

At the July 7, 1884, annual meeting it was voted to hire a male teacher for the winter term of four months. This makes one wonder if the big boys (such as my grandfather, Miles Malone), who often attended school only in the winter, were causing trouble.

A woodshed was built in November 1888 costing \$29.61. The going wage of \$2.00 in 1881 - 1891 for cleaning the schoolhouse was paid the following ladies: Mrs. Lavanaway, Mrs. May Stone, Mrs. Mary Harris. In September 1892, 25 pounds of lead was purchased from Finch of Whitewater.

At the July 7, 1902, annual meeting a motion was passed to take a formal ballot for clerk. Seventeen votes cast - - E. C. Cary 8, Haag 1, R. L. Cary 7, Lerwell 1. Second ballot, no choice. Third ballot, R. L. Cary 14, E. C. Cary 2, Lerwell 1.

Additional seats were purchased from Sherwood Company in 1903, costing \$70.19, freight from Chicago, \$3.96. A new flag was purchased for \$3.95, and O. E. Truman furnished and set up the flag pole for \$11 in the spring of 1903. C. H. (Bert) Pitt used to tell that there were 48 pupils in the school in 1905. At that time the big boys sometimes got "crushes" on the teacher, but Bert had a crush on Miss Gray's sister.

1

*Records of School District No. 4  
of the Town of Johnston, commencing  
the annual meeting of 1867.*

19 IBID., p. 4.

20 IBID., p. 6.

21 IBID.

22 SCHOOL CLERKS' BOOK.

*This excerpt from the first page of the CLERKS' BOOK illustrates Ephriam Cary's script.*





1909 — Mina Babcock, Teacher

*(Left to right from the back) Edwin Mathews, Stella Collins, Ida Mathews, Leota Pitt, Lizzie Kitzman, Ruth Malone, Lilah Haag, Margaret Malone, Eulala Cors, Eddie Malone, Annie Maas, Merlin Haag, Leo Malone, Esther Mathews, Henry Kitzman, Laura Schultz, Olga Schmalling. The two Schmalling boys and a Malone boy are there, too. Bernice Cors, Malby Cors, Teresa Malone, Agnes Malone and a few others must have been absent that day.*

The July 3, 1905, treasurer's report listed an order for \$4.50 to R. L. Cary for cleaning the schoolhouse and digging a vault.

Some of the expenses listed in the July 1, 1907, treasurer's report are to F. Truman for laying floor and whitewashing, \$17.50; Pat Fanning for three cords of wood, \$15; Frank Aymar for sawing wood, \$3. Received of O. B. Hall District Tax money, \$240; F. Niskern, Town Treasurer, State and County money, \$178.23.

A belfry was added in May, 1911, costing \$10. An organ was purchased in October, 1910, from J. M Haag for \$25.

A special meeting of the district voters was called on October 12, 1916, with J. M Haag elected chairman; but "on account of bad weather," it was adjourned until October 16, when Mr. Robbins was elected chairman. A motion was passed to move the front partition of the schoolhouse ten feet to the north. Another motion was passed that the members of the district help move the same. The main purpose of this addition was to provide a place for the children to hang their coats.

It was not until the July 7, 1919, annual meeting that the school was named. It was then called PLAINVIEW.

On September 30, 1921, the teacher, Miss Mae White, was paid \$2.74 for curtain material.

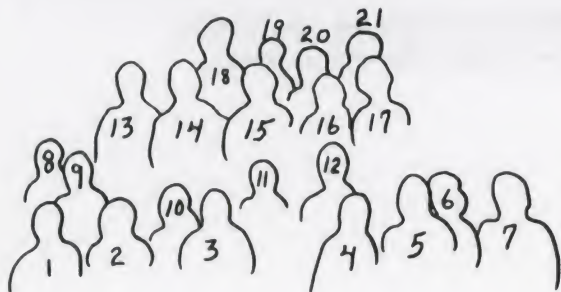
Shade trees were planted on the school grounds in 1926. Of the many trees which were planted throughout the history of the school, none remain today.

Miss Clark gave intelligence tests in March, 1927. Miss Ida Knutson, county nurse, gave diptheria shots in the spring, 1928. In 1929 Mr. Martin Everson made a hobby horse for the playground.

At the July 14, 1930, meeting it was voted to furnish free textbooks. On March 7, 1930, Willis Farnham of Whitewater was paid \$50 for wiring the schoolhouse for electricity.

In July, 1935, Marvin Schultz was paid \$2.00 for cleaning the school yard. His mother, Mrs. Otto Schultz, was paid \$6.00 for cleaning the schoolhouse on September 6, 1935.





1913 - 15 , MARION PETERSON, Teacher

(1) Llewellyn Powell (2) Helen Malone (3) Elizabeth Malone  
 (4) Merlin Rupnow (5) Francis Chesney (6) Gladys Robbins  
 (7) Dorothy Titus (8) Ralph Titus (9) Merlin Haag (10) Benjamin Hudson (11) Tom Chesney (12) David Powell (13) Otto Maas (14) Leo Malone (15) Annie Maas (16) Edwin Malone (17) Laura Schultz (18) Marion Peterson, teacher (19) Edith Hudson (20) Esther Matthews (21) Sarah Powell.

1925 - 26

From left to right - Willy Karlen, Bill Powell,  
 Donald Everson, Clayton Malone,  
 Adolph Karlen - Miss Duoss's boys!







1926 - 27

*Back row: Catherine Clark, teacher, Olive Pitt, Gladys Pitt, Wallace Arndt, Eldon Hake, Leo Schultz, William Karlen. Front row: Vivian Sturtevant, Mary Arndt, Marion Schultz, Thelma Hake, Marvin Schultz, Armine Karlen.*



*ELLA HAAG & COUSIN,  
BEN WOLF*

*Throughout most of the history of Plainview, water was carried from this well in pails by the pupils for the school. (Note the showy flynet on the horses.)*





1927 -28

Back row -- Eldon Hake, Leo Schultz, Wallace Arndt, Gladys Pitt, Thelma Hake, Armine Karlen, Marion Schultz, Howard Pitt, Mary Arndt, Vivian Sturtevant, Marvin Schultz, Van Allen Sturtevant.



#585

1931 - 32 FLORENCE KLUG, TEACHER. Marvin Schultz, - - -, Armine Karlen, Genevieve Peck, Marion Schultz, Thelma Hake, Ralph - - -, Vivian Sturtevant, Lillian Jordan, Virginia Grice, Ronald Kitzman, Beatrice Kitzman, Martha Grice, Lyle Jordan, Dorothy Schultz, Seated -- Van Sturtevant, Lyle Peck, Lawrence Peck, Ronald Kitzman.



## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

By studying the minutes of the annual meetings (1867 - 1936), the following list of school officials was compiled:

YEAR	DIRECTOR	CLERK	TREASURER
1867-68		E. Cary	Leister Hulse (118)
1868-69		Richard Cary	Leister Hulse
1869-70		Richard Cary	Leister Hulse
1870-71	Thomas Rice(22)	Richard Cary	Leister Hulse
1871-72	Thomas Rice	Samuel Bullock	Leister Hulse
1872-73	Thomas Rice	Samuel Bullock	Leister Hulse
1873-74	H.N.Teetshorn (No.114)	Thomas Rice	Richard Cary (115)
1874-75	H.N.Teetshorn	Thomas Rice	Richard Cary
1875-76	H.N.Teetshorn	Thomas Rice	Richard Cary
1876-77	H.N.Teetshorn	Thomas Rice	Richard Cary
1877-78	H.N.Teetshorn	Thomas Rice	Richard Cary
1878-79	H.N.Teetshorn	Thomas Rice	Richard Cary
1879-80	S. Bullock	W. Woodstock (102)	Richard Cary
1880-81	S. Bullock	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1881-82	S. Bullock	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1882-83	A. C. Cary	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1883-84	A.C. Cary	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1884-85	W.C.Aldrich (117)	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1885-86	W.C. Aldrich	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1886-87	W. C. Aldrich	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1887-88	W. C. Aldrich	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1888-89	W. C. Aldrich	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1889-90	W. C. Aldrich	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1890-91	W. C. Aldrich	E. C. Cary (141)	Richard Cary
1891-92	W. C. Aldrich	Emery C. Cary	Richard Cary
1892-93	W.C. Aldrich	Emery C. Cary	Richard Cary
1893-94	W. C. Aldrich	Frank Rice	Richard Cary
1894-95	W. C. Aldrich	Frank Rice	Richard Cary
1895-96	not given	Frank Rice	Richard Cary
1896-97		W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1897-98		W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1898-99	E. L. Cary	W. Woodstock	Richard Cary
1899-1900	E. L. Cary	Emery C. Cary	Richard Cary
1900-01	E. L. Cary	Emery C. Cary	Richard Cary
1901-02	A. Pitt (105)	Roy L. Cary	Emery C. Cary
1902-03	Alfred Pitt	Roy L. Cary	Emery C. Cary
1903-04	Alfred Pitt	Roy L. Cary	Emery C. Cary
1904-05	Jesse Stone(143)	Roy L. Cary	Emery C. Cary
1905-06	Jesse Stone	Roy L. Cary	Emery C. Cary
1906-07	Jesse Stone	Roy L. Cary	Emery C. Cary
1907-08	Alfred Pitt	Roy L. Cary	C. Pierce (116)
1908-09	Jesse Stone	Roy L. Cary	Charles Pierce
1909-10	Jesse Stone	Roy L. Cary	Charles Pierce
1910-11	H. Schmaling	W.C. Aldrich	J. M. Haag
1911-12	H. Schmaling	C. Schultz (117)	Jesse Stone
1912-13	H. Schmaling	C. Schultz	Jesse Stone
1913-14	J.M. Haag (113)	C. Schultz	Jesse Stone
1914-15	J. M. Haag	C. Schultz	Jesse Stone
1915-16	J. M. Haag	C. Schultz	Jesse Stone
1916-17	J. M. Haag	C. Schultz	Jesse Stone
1917-18	J. M. Haag	C. Schultz	Martin Everson
1918-19	Paul Rupnow	C. Schultz	Martin Everson
1919-20	Floyd Wright	C. Schultz	Martin Everson
1920-21	Floyd Wright	Ben Hake(22)	Martin Everson
1921-22	Floyd Wright	C.H.Pitt (105)	Chas. Schultz
1922-23	James Waters	C. H. Pitt	Chas. Schultz
1923-24	James Waters	Louie Schultz	Chas. Schultz
1924-25	James Waters	Louis Schultz	Chas. Schultz
1925-26	F. Sturtevant	Louie Schultz	Chas. Schultz
1926-27	C. H. Pitt	F. Sturtevant (113)	Chas. Schultz
1927-28	C. H. Pitt	F. Sturtevant	Chas. Schultz
1928-29	C. H. Pitt	F. Sturtevant	Chas. Schultz

1929-30	C. H. Pitt	M. Everson (110)	Chas. Schultz
1930-31	C. H. Pitt	James N. Waters	Earl Jordon (117)
1931-32	Geo.Teubert(103)	James N. Waters	Earl Jordon
1932-33	Geo.Teubert	C. H. Pitt	Earl Jordon
1933-34	Geo. Teubert	C. H. Pitt	Earl Jordon
1934-35	Geo. Teubert	Mrs. C.H. Pitt	Earl Jordon
1935-36	A. Scharine (143)	Mrs. Mary Pitt	Earl Jordon
1936-37	A. Scharine	Mrs. Mary Pitt	Earl Jordon

Even though Wisconsin Statutes<sup>23</sup> have provided since 1875 that women could hold office, no woman in this district did so until Mrs. Mary Pitt was elected clerk at the July 9, 1934, meeting. She was elected for one year to complete the unexpired three-year term of her deceased husband, Mr. C. H. Pitt. However, this was just the beginning of her service to the district; for Mrs. Pitt, who became Mrs. Clair Rice in December 1940, served 19 continuous years as clerk, until the district consolidated in 1954.

My special thanks go to Mrs. Rice, who was an excellent source of information. Together, we traversed the local cemeteries for dates and names of families who lived in this area.



**MARY & CLAIR RICE**

*Mrs. Rice served on the Plainview School Board for 19 continuous years. Mr. and Mrs. Rice live on the Six Corners Road (105) (See the biographical sketch of the Rices.)*

<sup>23</sup> Sec. 513 Every woman of twenty-one years of age and upward may be elected or appointed as director, treasurer or clerk of a school district, director or secretary of a town board under the township system; member of a board of education in cities, or county superintendent.



*Alfred Pitt was born April 2, 1858, in England. He married Lillian Mae Sherman; and they located in North Johnstown in 1893. They had four children: Ernest H., June 7, 1882; Curtis Herbert, Feb. 26, 1888; Clara Bell, March 8, 1891, Leota Mae, Sept. 7, 1897.*



ALFRED PITT

LILLIAN MAE PITT



CHARLES A. SCHARINE and wife Clara

*Children: (left) Walter, Ruth, Pearl, Herman, Albert. Charles A. Scharine came from Germany in 1885 with his father and family. They first settled near Sullivan, Wis. Charles A. married Clara Anderson of Whitewater, March 4, 1894. He purchased his farm in North Johnstown in 1903, which Herman Scharine and son, Donald, operate today.*



## TEACHERS

*Miss Blunt was one of eight children and a sister to Dr. Arthur L. Blunt ( see doctors). When Ella taught in District No. 4, the Blunt family lived (145) across the road from the John B. Ward family.*



**ELLA BLUNT**  
Teacher - 1876 & 1881

After hours and hours of perusing the Treasurers' Reports (1867-1936), the following list of teachers was compiled:

YEAR	TEACHER
1867-68	M. Janes
1868-69	Miss Wood
Fall - 69	Mary Hulse
Winter - 70	Nelson Seaver
Spring - 70	Hellen Royce
Winter - 71	Walter Horton
Spring - 71	G. C. Dickinson
Summer - 71	Miss I. E. Brightman
Winter - 72	E. C. Bennet
Spring - 72	Martha Graham
Spring - 73	H. P. Kinney
Summer - 73	Alice Teetshorn
Winter - 74	Mrs. Norcross
Spring - 74	Mrs. Emily Hudson
Winter - 75	Joseph Parkyn
Spring - 75	Joseph Parkyn
Summer - 75	Mrs. Emily Hudson
Spring - 76	Francis R. Rice
Summer - 76	Ella Blunt
Spring - 77	Francis Rice
Summer - 77	Miss L. Cary
Winter - 79	Francis Rice
Summer - 79	Miss Hull
Winter - 80	W. Aldrich
Summer - 80	Miss A. Cary
Winter - 81	Ella Blunt
Summer - 81	Mr. Thomas
Fall - 81	Ella Groesbeck
Winter - 82	E. D. Wheeler
Spring - 82	Miss Gray
Fall - 82	Miss Gray
Winter - 83	Miss Marquart
Spring - 83	Miss E. Gray
Fall - 83	Miss Marquart
Winter - 84	W. Goodhue
Spring - 84	Miss Gray

Fall - 84	Miss Marquart
Winter - 85	W. Miller
Spring - 85	Miss E. Darwood
Fall - 85	Jennie Hulse
Spring - 86	Jennie Hulse
Fall - 86	Jennie Hulse
Winter - 87	Watson C. Aldrich
Summer - 87	Miss Ward
Fall - 87	Miss Ward
Winter - 88	Miss Ward
Spring - 88	Miss Ward
Fall - 88	Miss Ward
Winter - 89	F. Richardson
Summer - 89	Merl Johnson
Summer - 89	Miss Austin
Fall - 89	Merl Johnson
Winter - 90	Merl Johnson
Spring - 90	Miss Austin
Fall - 90	Miss Austin
Winter - 91	J. N. Anderson
Spring - 91	Miss Hadley
Fall - 91	Bertha Brown
Winter - 92	Mark Brown
Spring - 92	Bertha Brown
Fall - 92	Miss Maxson
Winter - 93	Joseph Sarver
Spring - 93	Miss Maxson
Fall - 93	Miss Maxson
Winter - 94	J. H. Godfrey
Spring - 94	Mae Hulse
Fall - 94	Miss Kyle
Winter - 95	Miss Kyle
Spring - 95	Miss Kyle
Fall - 95	Miss Kyle
Winter - 96	Miss Kyle
Spring - 96	Miss Kyle
Fall - 96	Miss Kyle
Winter - 97	Miss Kyle
Spring - 97	Miss Kyle
Fall - 97	Miss Addie Campbell
Winter - 98	Miss Addie Campbell
Spring - 98	Miss Mattie Mendenhall
Fall - 98	Miss E. J. Wright
Winter - 99	Miss E. J. Wright
Spring - 99	Miss E. J. Wright
Winter - 1900	Miss E. J. Wright
Spring - 1900	Miss Ethel Butler
Fall - 1900	Miss Stetson
Spring - 01	Miss Stetson
Winter - 01	Miss Stetson
Fall - 01	Miss Mabel Glenn
Winter - 02	Miss Mabel Glenn
Spring - 02	Miss Mabel Glenn
Fall - 02	Miss Mayme Welsh
Winter - 03	Miss Mayme Welsh
Spring - 03	Miss Mayme Welsh





Fall - 03	Clara Fox	
Winter - 04	Clara Fox	
Spring - 04	Clara Fox	
Fall - 04	Miss Lottie Gray	
Winter - 05	Miss Lottie Gray	
Spring - 05	Miss Lottie Gray	
Fall - 05	Miss Joyce	
Winter - 06	Miss Rena Green	
Spring - 06	Miss Rena Green	
Fall - 06	Miss Rena Green	
Winter - 07	Miss Ethel Wilbur	
Spring - 07	Miss Ethel Wilbur	
Fall - 07	Miss Ethel Wilbur	
Winter - 08	No treasurer's report	
1909 - 10	Mina Babcock	Salary per month
1910-11	Miss Lulu Janes	\$40.00
1911-12	Miss May Reichel	44.55
1912-13	Miss May Reichel	44.55
1913-14	Miss Marion Peterson	39.60
1914-15	Miss Marion Peterson	44.55
1915-16	Miss Lucy Putney	44.55
1916-17	Miss Lucy Putney	49.50
1917-18	Miss Jacobs	49.50
1918-19	Miss Alice Pinnow	64.35
1919-20	Miss Hanson	80.00
1920-21	Miss Hanson	115.00
1921-22	Miss Mae White	110.00
1922-23	Miss Dorothy Merrifield	95.00
1923-24	Miss Jessie Crandall	105.00
1924-25	Miss Clara Duoss	95.00
1925-26	Miss Clara Duoss	100.00
1926-27	Miss Catherine Clark	90.00
1927-28	Miss Catherine Clark	100.00
1928-29	Miss Catherine Clark	105.00
1929-30	Miss Mina Truman	92.00
1930-31	Miss Mina Truman	100.00
1931-32	Miss Florence Klug	85.00
1932-33	Miss Isabel Duoss	80.00
1933-34	Miss Isabel Duoss	75.00
1934-35	Miss Lenora Vigdal	65.00
1935-36	Mrs. Esther Hall	85.00

"I am indebted to my father for living, but to my  
TEACHER for living well."

Alexander of Macedon



CLARA FOX

Teacher — — 1903 - 04

Miss Fox, one of a family of four girls, was born and raised on her father's farm on KK (90). Her father, Charles Fox, wrote of Clara's birth in his dairy, which was donated to the Johnstown Album Committee by Mr. Cockerill. On June 20, 1917, Clara Fox married Walter B. Cockerill. She died on June 20, 1958. Mr. Cockerill lives at 30 Third Street, Milton Jct., Wis.

No. 56.

## COMMON SCHOOLS OF WISCONSIN

Rock County, 2nd Supt. Dist.

### Teacher's Third Grade Certificate.

I Hereby Certify, That Clara J. Fox has passed a satisfactory examination upon all points required by law, for a Third Grade Certificate and is licensed to teach in Rock County, 2nd Supt. Dist. for One Year from the date hereof, unless this Certificate is sooner annulled.

The following is her standing in the several branches upon a scale of 100:

Orthography	86	Arithmetic	80	Constitution of U. S.	68	Elements of Agriculture	79
Orthography	98	English - Grammar	85	Constitution of Wis.	88	Manual	75
Reading	82	Geography	84	Physiology and Hygiene	86		
Pennmanship	80	U. S. History	78	Theory and Art of Teaching	82		

Clara J. Fox has taught nine months, and has within the past year attended Teachers' Institute two days.

At the expiration of each term of school taught under the authority of this certificate, you are required to report to the County Superintendent the date of same, showing actual length of term, time of days, number of pupils, etc., on forms and address of District Clerk and your Post Office address. Your attention is called to Section 200, U. S. W. Stat. Rev. 1906, 1908.

Dated at Afton, this 20th day of Aug., 1903.  
C. D. Antkowiak, County Superintendent



Teacher's Certificate for Clara J. Fox in 1903, the year she taught District No. 4.





*MINA BABCOCK and ELLA HAAG*

*Miss Babcock taught in District No. 4  
in 1909 - 10 and boarded at Haags.*



*MISS CLARA DUOSS when she taught  
Plainview School - - 1924 - 26. Now Mrs.  
Ralph Rye who lives in Johnstown on  
Rye Road.*



*LULU JANES AND BLANCHE KILDOW  
in the J. M Haag Home. Miss Janes taught  
in District No. 4 in 1910 - 11. She is now  
Mrs. Lulu Kalmer of St. Petersburg, Florida.*





As the Clerks' Book for the years 1936-53 has not been located, the history for this period is incomplete. This book should be on file with the Milton High School District, but as yet it has not been found. If any records are found, there will be a supplement to this article.

#### *School District No. 4 Dissolved*

During the early 1950's there was a movement throughout the state to consolidate small rural schools. According to Mr. Donald Upson, CEA No. 17 coordinator, a great impact on the Wisconsin school system occurred with the passage of a bill which made it mandatory that all school districts become part of a larger district operating a high school. To comply with the law county school committees were formed, hearings held, and school consolidations affected. As in most rural districts, there was some opposition to this law in Plainview District.

Mr. Donald Upson was the County Superintendent of Schools when the legislature passed another bill abolishing the county superintendency and creating 19 Educational Agencies. Mr. Upson then became the coordinator for Cooperative Educational Agency No. 17. As stated by Mr. Upson, the state provides the major expense for the administration of each agency but complete control of the agency is in the hands of the local Board of Control.

An order attaching School District No. 4 to the new Johnstown Community District for all purposes was established on February 13, 1954, at the Johnstown Hall at 1:30 p.m. When this attachment took place, it dissolved School District No. 4.<sup>24</sup>

The following extract is taken from the minutes of the annual school meeting held July 12, 1954: "Mrs. James Arnold moved that the school board be authorized to dispose of the remaining school properties. Fred Wehler seconded, and the motion carried."<sup>25</sup>

In order to make sure the deed was clear, an agreement was drawn between Harley Wickingson and wife, Margaret, and Johnstown Community School District No. 2 of the Towns of Johnstown and Lima, Rock County, Wisconsin. This agreement granted to the new district "All that part of the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 11 of Town 3 North, Range 14 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian in Johnstown Township, of Rock County, Wisconsin, which was formerly occupied by Johnstown District No. 4."<sup>26</sup>

At a public auction held in the spring of 1955, the former Plainview School and the site was purchased for a home by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dahl for about \$1800. The agreement between Johnstown Community School District No. 2 of the Towns of

Johnstown & Lima, Rock County, and Elmer Dahl and Jean P. Dahl, his wife, was signed by Albert Scharine, Director, and Clara Rye, Clerk, on May 17, 1955.<sup>27</sup>

Mr. and Mrs. Dahl lived there until November, 1955, when they sold the place to Mr. and Mrs. Burr Cooper.<sup>28</sup> In May, 1964, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper sold the place to Mrs. Dorothy Tracy,<sup>29</sup> who owns it today.

Still standing in the same location is the original structure of 1867, but Mr. Otto Tracy added a room the full length of the east side of the building.

When the schoolhouse and its site were sold, also offered for auction were the school furnishings such as the desks, the clock, and the bell. Most of the desks sold, which had been purchased from the Sherwood Company, had a patent date of 1869. Lyle Mawhinney of Richmond purchased about 15 large and small double-size desks for 50 cents each, which he stored in his shed for 15 years. On August 23, 1970, he offered them for sale at an auction of his mother's household furnishings in Darien. As a dealer had offered to purchase the large double-size desks for \$15 and the smaller ones for \$10, that is where the bidding started. The first one sold was to a former Plainview pupil, Vivian Sturtevant, for \$16.50, who had her choice of the lot. Albert Scharine purchased one of the smaller desks, paying \$11.25 for the desk and \$6.00 for a separate seat. Albert purchased these for his grandchildren, children of Charles and Shirley Scharine, who live in Plainview District (No. 115). Names and initials noticed on the desks at this sale were HP, HCP, CS, Doris, Vivian, Glenn Pitt, and Olive Pitt. Several other desks were purchased by non-Plainview people, and the remainder were purchased by Art Olson, a dealer in Millard.

Plainview School met the educational needs of the community from 1846 until 1954. But, with improved roads and bus transportation, the one-room school was no longer the most efficient way to meet the educational needs of the community. Educational opportunities were better provided in large multi-roomed schools with the best in heating, lighting, and new equipment. The esprit de corps found in rural school communities, however, cannot be found in the new consolidated schools.

Maintaining their identity with the past, a group of community ladies are meeting today, September 3, 1970. They meet once a month, September through May, in a card club. Members of this club are Mmes. Clair Rice, Harley Wickingson, Albert Scharine, Walter Scharine, Clayton Malone, Donald Totten, Russell Stone, Ruth Fields, and Miss Vivian Sturtevant.

No one in this Plainview area has ever become nationally famous but most have remained good and worthy citizens who have contributed their best efforts to this community.

*"I am of the soil on which I stand, and of no soil can I sing  
as well as of my own." Rostand*

24 Rock County Register of Deeds, ABSTRACT VOLUME 51, p. 122.

25 IBID., Vol. 51, p. 128.

26 IBID., Vol. 473, p. 246.

27 IBID., Vol. 473, p. 386.

28 IBID., Vol. 484, p. 124.

29 IBID., Vol. 121, p. 508.



LILAH HAAG VANCE, who attended Plainview School in the early 1900's, reminisces from San Leandro, California.

Plainview School has always been important and dear to me. Living so close to it (No. 113) and the teachers staying with us, it always seemed like a second home, so to speak. For instance, my brother or sister or I would carry burning coals from our furnace in winter in a bucket to the school to start the fire in the morning; so when the children came, the school would be warm. Years ago the school had a pot-bellied stove, which got quite red at times. Eventually, this was changed to a more efficient stove which, by means of an outer enclosure, distributed the heat more evenly in the room.

At the lower end of the grounds in the winter, there was quite a large pond of ice for skating. The children did enjoy this. One winter when it was starting to thaw, Bennie Stone tried to see how long he could skate on the ice when it was like rubber. He ventured too long and broke through. He spent quite a while beside the stove drying out. Some of the children had quite a ways to walk, but they didn't seem to mind as they came in groups. Annie and Otto Maas were the cutest couple when they first started school. In the winter they would really be cold when they arrived but would be all smiles waiting for some of the older ones to help them with their coats and overshoes.

The playground was larger than most city playgrounds at that time. There was a large flagpole for the stars and stripes. Labor Day the children planted trees and cleaned the yard. The school picnics were always held on our "oak grove" lawn. It was large and tables were put up for the big feast. The children's parents came too, of course, and the mothers brought delicious food of all kinds. Mother spent a day or so preparing food, etc. The men and older boys played baseball in one of the fields. The rest of us played games as kids do now. We sometimes put on a

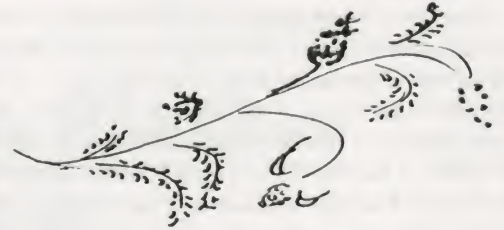
little program, including singing. The piano was placed close to the open window so it could be heard outdoors.

At Christmas time a large tree was cut down from the woods. It usually was large enough to almost reach the ceiling. I know as Dad usually got the tree and when it was no longer needed in school, he would cut it down to fit our home for our Christmas. In school the children strung popcorn and cranberries as many do now and they helped to trim the tree. As there was no electricity in those days, it seems a miracle that the numerous candles used did not cause a fire, but to my knowledge this never happened at Plainview School. I guess pupils and teachers were alert.

We always had very good teachers. There was a library and although it was small, it contained many fine books. The Superintendent of Schools, O. D. Antisdell, came to visit our school often and always seemed pleased with what the teachers had accomplished. After we gave the organ to the school, there was always music and singing. Most of the teachers were talented in the musical field. One of our teachers was really strong on Nature Study and Poetry. I am sure many of her living pupils can still recite some of her poems.

In order to graduate from 8th grade the pupils had to take the examination on many subjects in a strange school with different teachers so we really had to know our "stuff" and "keep our cool" in unfamiliar surroundings. (Albert Scharine remembers when he and Lilah Haag wrote this examination at Lima Center School. They traveled with Bennie Stone, who drove his horse and buggy, and Bernice Cors was along, too.)

... Dad mowed the grass or weeds or whatever during vacation so it would be ready for school to open, the same as your dad probably did. Also, we had the key so that we could inspect during the vacation months to see nothing was disturbed and then again see to it that someone cleaned the school so it would be ready for the opening



THE J. M. HAAG house in the early 1900's (113) was important in the history of Plainview because of its proximity to the school. Teachers boarded here, and school picnics were held in the Haag's Oak Grove.

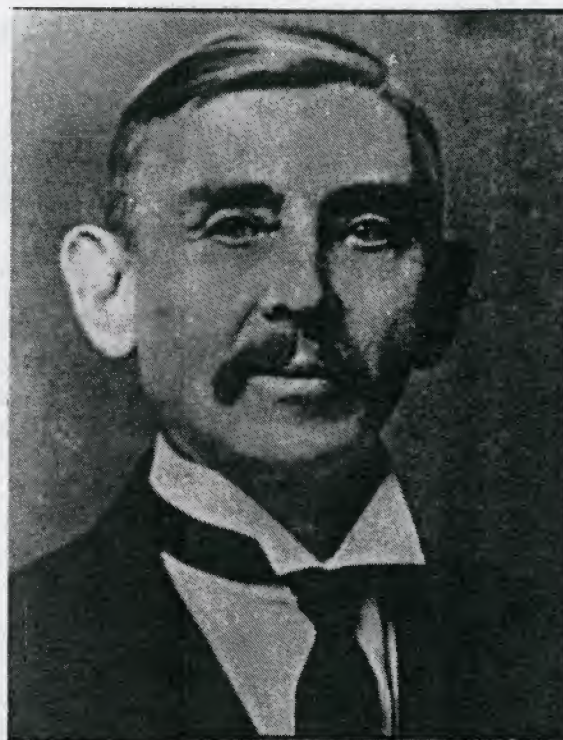


of school. Your mother, Teresa (Malone), and I often were assigned to get a pail of water from our well. No doubt history repeated itself in many ways when you attended the school.

One should never "sell short" the rural one-room school. It taught the pupils concentration as they had to concentrate on their studies while others were reciting; and then again at times they learned from other classes. It taught them self-reliance and tolerance for the younger ones. There were fights and arguments, of course, which were stopped sooner or later by the teacher or the monitor for the day.

... was so sorry to hear of Ben Stone's death. He would have been a good source of information, too. He was a very good boy and man.

**MARION PETERSON DONALDSON**, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, who has always remained loyal to her Johnstown heritage, taught for two years in this district - - 1913-15. She tells an interesting incident. It seems as if Lilah Haag, who was attending high school, contracted diphtheria. The Plainview School was ordered closed; and as Miss Peterson was boarding at the Haags, she was quarantined with the rest of the family, who were isolated in one section of the house. Marion remembers having a "ball" with Merlin and Ella during their "vacation." Lilah, of course, didn't enjoy her quarantine. Lilah related about the incident: "It was first thought that I had mumps; but when I got so I couldn't breathe, Dr. Dike was summoned; and he sure changed things in the Haag household for six weeks. I had been coming home week ends on the train and always thought I picked up the horrible germ on the train."



**O. D. ANTISDEL**  
County Supt. of Schools.

*How many remember this distinguished gentleman?*



**THE J. M. HAAG FAMILY** — Edmond, Merlin,  
J. M. Haag and wife, Emma, Lilah, Ella, and ?



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

**SAMUEL M. BULLOCK** served as clerk of District No. 4 for two years, 1871-73, and as director for three years, 1879-82. At that time Samuel owned 120 acres in Section 14, where he made "a specialty of raising thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and owned one of the finest bulls in the county." <sup>30</sup>

Born in New York, June 2, 1831, Samuel M. came to Wisconsin in 1843 with his father, who located in Johnstown for one year. Samuel's father moved to Lima, where Samuel lived until he was 19. In 1851 Samuel married Miss Mary J. Elliott, a native of Erie County, New York, and they located in Johnstown. They had three children - - Orson Wesley, 1852-1867; Della A., 1858-1927, who married Herbert Janes, 1848-1934; Verna I., 1873-?. <sup>31</sup>

Samuel M. Bullock, who died May 5, 1916, is buried just inside the gate in North Johnstown Cemetery. There are many Bullocks buried here, dating back to the 1840's.

**BENJAMIN F. CARY** was County Treasurer for five years - - 1870-1874. He also served for two terms on the County Board of Supervisors - - 1862-63 and 1868-69. <sup>32</sup> For the township, he served as Justice of Peace, 1850; Overseer of Highways in Road District 5, 1850; Road Supervisor, 1858. <sup>33</sup> As he was active in local affairs, it is possible he served on the school board sometime before 1867. It is recorded that B. F. Cary purchased land from the Government on October 27, 1842, in Section 11. <sup>34</sup>

B. F. Cary was married to Sarah M. Skinner, who died June 17, 1873, at age 49. Written on Sarah's tombstone is "Not

lost but gone before." B. F. Cary and his wife are buried in North Johnstown Cemetery, as are most of the numerous Carys who settled in this area.

**EPHRIAM CARY** was clerk of District No. 4 when the school building was built in 1867-68. He purchased land from the Government in Section 14 in 1842. In 1843 and 1849 Ephriam served as a Town Supervisor and in 1845 as Town Clerk. <sup>35</sup>

Ephriam Cary died August 14, 1889, at the age of 70. He and his wife, Emily, who died January 16, 1872, at the age of 49, are also buried in North Johnstown Cemetery.

**ROSWELL RICE** was born in Erie County, New York, April 11, 1815, and came to Wisconsin in 1840, locating at Johnstown where he purchased 40 acres in Section 2. He later sold this acreage and purchased 120 acres in Section 15, which he sold when he moved to Section 12, where he purchased 280 acres. In 1850 Roswell Rice married Miss Emeline Saxe, a native of Greene County, New York. They had six children - - Elmira, Charles, Ellsworth, Francis, and two who died at an early age. <sup>36</sup> Roswell Rice, who died December 21, 1882, and his wife, Emeline, are buried in the Utters Corners Cemetery, next to the Saxe lot.

Roswell Rice must have been very influential in creating District No. 4 and establishing the first school, for he was named as a trustee of the school in the legal document, recorded in 1846, when Charles A. Shattuck sold one-half acre of land to the district.

30 THE HISTORY OF ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN, p. 809.

31 IBID.

32 HISTORY OF ROCK COUNTY AND TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROCK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AND MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, (Janesville, Wis.: Wm. M. Dotty & Brother, Printers, 1856), pp. 84-87.

33 TOWN CLERKS' BOOK.

34 GOVERNMENT ENTRY BOOK.

35 TOWN CLERKS' BOOK.

36 THE HISTORY OF ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN, p. 812.



## Sturtevant Farms

REG. ARABIANS

REG. HOLSTEINS

Van A. Sturtevant  
Route 1  
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

(608) 883-6660





*The Thomas E. Rice Home (22)*

*Pictured are Thomas & Helen Rice, their son Frank and his three children - - Clair, Merle, and Iva. Also shown are Grant and Theron Rice, Clair's cousins.*

*Today, this is the home of Eldon Hake and Miss Thelma Hake, children of Ben and Nellie (Young) Hake.*



THOMAS E. RICE was born in the state of New York, July 2, 1830, and died August 4, 1909, in Johnstown. In 1840 Thomas came with his father, Martin Rice, to Wisconsin where they settled in Sections 2 and 11 in Johnstown.<sup>37</sup> In 1856 he married Miss Helen M. Wortman, a native of Michigan. They had five sons, all of whom were born and schooled in District No. 4 - - Clarence A., Albert Clayton, Frank E., Fern A., and Ray Howard. Three of the sons became doctors. A. Clayton Rice, M.D., 1861-1928, who practiced in Whitewater, is buried in North Johnstown Cemetery in the Rice lot. Fern A. Rice, M. D., who practiced in Delavan, died in 1935. Ray H., M. D., who also practiced in Delavan, died of the flu in 1919. Dr. Fern and Dr. Ray are both buried in Delavan. Clarence A. Rice was married to Flora Saxe of Lima.

Thomas E. Rice served as Director of District No. 4, 1870-73, and as Clerk for two terms - - 1873-79. He served as a juror for the Circuit Court in 1867.<sup>38</sup>

Clair Rice, age 82, grandson of Thomas E. Rice and son of Frank E., was born in a log house on the farm where the Ralph Lawrence family (No. 121) lives today. Clair, who now lives in Plainview District (No. 105), has lived most of his life in Johnstown. Clair's father, Frank E. Rice, who was married to Katie Johnson of Lima, died August 4, 1940.



THOMAS E. RICE (1830 - 1909)

*Grandfather of Clair T. Rice*



37 IBID

38 HISTORY OF ROCK COUNTY AND TRANSACTIONS, pp. 84-87.





Iva, Clair, and Merle Rice  
Children of Frank and Katie Rice



A stimulating expectorant  
prescription given by Dr.  
Clayton Rice about 1899.



℞  
Gr. I.pecac grt XX  
Gr. Sanguinaria ʒ SS  
Gr. Belladonna ʒt XX  
Mucate Ammonia ʒ III  
Aqua qss ʒ VIII  
℞s

Teaspoonful  
every (3) hours,

A. C. Rice M.D.

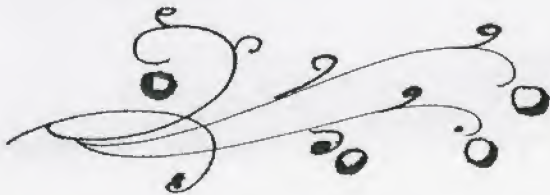




**BENJAMIN E. STONE**, who died July 21, 1970, lived most of his life in Plainview School District, Johnstown township. He was born December 18, 1894, in a log house which was located on the exact spot where the house of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Scharine (No. 116) stands today.

Ben's parents were Jesse Stone of Souresset, England, (1864-1940) and Mary Jane Jewell of Bristol, England, (1863-1939) who were married December 8, 1888, in Wisconsin. Jesse came from England to work on the farm for Emery Cary.. He served as Director of the school district 1904-07 and Treasurer 1911-17.

Ben E. married Zelma E. Barton May 10, 1932, and they had two sons, Gary of Whitewater, and Harlan of Fontana, and four grandchildren. Ben was a member of the Richmond Methodist Church and is buried in the Richmond Cemetery beside his wife, who died in 1958.



*Ben E. Stone and his father, Jesse.*



*Jesse and May Stone with son, Ben.*





# Johnstown Town Hall



*The Town Hall as a church*

## THE JOHNSTOWN TOWN HALL

The Johnstown Town hall was originally built as a Free Church at a cost of \$2,000.00 in 1847. The first minister was Elder Mills who preached about the time the church was finished. The parsonage was located further to the east on County Trunk "A" where Ivan Morse now has his home. The original parsonage had board and batten siding, that is the boards were placed upon the frame of the house up and down with a batten covering the crack between the boards. Later on the Morse family built the other side of the house and the porch between the two. The sides were covered with clap-board.

## AWAY BACK WHEN

*by Mrs. Minnie Morse*

Away back when the town of Johnstown was new, quite a few things happened that I think were interesting. I did not come here until about 1905. I am writing them as my father-in-law, Martin Morse, told them to me. Some of these things I saw occur myself.

The church at Johnstown Center was built by Hilen Morse, Martin Morse's father. My uncle and aunt, Carl and Tina Will bought the Johnson House and moved in Oct. 30. I think it was 1905. I was here helping my Aunt get settled. Since it was Halloween, my Uncle had been up most of the night to



*The parsonage, now the home of Ivan Morse. (No. 272)*



## BANK OF MILTON

MILTON, WISCONSIN



keep the Halloweeners from dumping over a load of chickens and ducks. The next morning I went over to the store. It was run by Will Hall at that time and I heard him tell someone that there was a horse in the church. My cousins and I went over to see and that was my first visit to that church. It was no longer being used as a church, but it was still the same as it had been when services were held there: red carpets in the aisles up the steps to the sanctuary and the sanctuary floor was also covered with red carpet. There were three upholstered chairs (red); a large one in the center along the wall behind the pulpit and a smaller one on each side. There was also a balcony and yes! there was also a horse tied to a pew. I think it had been there most of the night. (1)

The church remained as it was until 1949. That year it was remodeled and is still in use as a town hall and meeting place for the people of the community.

Minnie Morse

Another Johnstownite recalls that the horse ate up part of the Bible still there upon its stand and that this detail of the Halloween frolic caused quite a commotion in the community.

#### NOTES FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S BOOK

April 7, 1914 - "Moved and carried that we make an attempt to obtain the church building. Carried. Chair appointed Geo. Hull, Dexter Gray and Geo. R. McLay. Carried."

April 6, 1915 - "Moved that we buy the church. Amended that the Town Board be instructed to buy the church. Carried.

Geo. R. McLay and Dexter Gray Supervisors. P. J. McFarlane Clerk., C. R. Newton Assessor., W. H. Kelly Treas. Polls closed at the usual time.

P. J. McFarlane  
Town Clerk

April 6, 1916 - "It was moved that we raise \$300.00 to fix the church and the Board use as much thereof as they see fit. Carried. Moved that hereafter we use the Town Hall (Church) as the next polling place. Carried.

April 3, 1917 - At one o'clock the clerks report was read and accepted. Moved that we raise two hundred (\$200.00) to fix the inside of the hall. Amended to include out houses and if any left be used for hitching posts. Amendment and motion carried.

The following article was entered by Mary Ellen Zanton for the "Voice of Democracy" speech contest in 1956.

How can I hear the Voice of Democracy if I know not  
where to tune? Stephen Vincent Benet too pondered,  
"American muse, whose strong and diverse heart  
So many men have tried to understand  
But only made it smaller, with their art,  
Because you are, as various as your land . . . .

For, as we hunt you down you must escape  
And we pursue a shadow of our own  
That can be caught in a magicians cape  
But has the flatness of a painted stone.  
Never the funning stag, the gull at wing  
The pure elixer, the American thing."

Let us seek this American thing. Share with me this free starred red, white and blue "magicians cape", stand with me upon the threshold of my Town Hall; listen with me to the voices within this severely pure New England type building. Well into its second century, the wear of the years had left its mark. Foundation sound; hand-hune, tamerac beams strong; joints secure with square nails, pure lines unrivaled; discussion centers about meeting the emergency of the repair. Voices rise; voices fall; all are not in accord. Finally the vote!! Next Town Meeting "we the people" are greeted with a handsomely renovated building, new heating system, new shining kitchen.

The democratic way is as strong as its foundation, but always continual upkeep; democracy is not a static thing.

The all important highways tying us with all other highways of our nation were wearing out. More discussion, voices rising and falling. We are reminded of the famous saying, "I may not agree with what you say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." The elements aided the cause; a week of spring rains turned the vote for the black topping of all roads, 46 miles of them. Levees, bonds, bids, contracts, powerful machinery and finally every citizen had blacktop past his door.

Democracy is for *all* the people!

Hardly had the last foot of highway been paved when the citizens became aware of the need of recognizing our school problem. Eleven one room school districts had out lived their usefulness. They said it couldn't be done. Listen closely to catch the echo of those many jam packed community meetings. It was not an easy vote but democracy is not an easy way of life. Finally a breath-taking-vote! It had been done. Again more levees, equalization, bonds, bids, contracts and then a dedication. - - A beautiful new school stands in the center of our community - - a visible expression of the vital vote of the local folk without a thought of federal aid.

As we continue to stand here, the stage is the same but the scene changes and we hear new sounds.

We can hear the clang of metal in the hall as the artistic yet firm hands of the homemaker taps out the desired design on metal trays.

Mrs. Homemaker and her neighbors are improving the Heart of America - - the home.

We can hear the vibrating voices in the earnestness of the youth prompted by the 4-H pledge.

As the buoyant youth and the weathered sage are seated around a conference table we can hear "And now gentlemen our purpose for being here tonight is to study the best methods of conserving our fundamental American resource - - the soil". These are the men who will leave it a much richer, greater producing land than that which they found.

Bi-weekly, we can see the golden yellow, the radiant red, the azure blue and the fresh green flowing skirts and we can



hear the many crinolines swish and swing.

We can see the gentlemen in their blue denim trousers and with gay shirts to match the color and print of his partner's skirt.

We also are able to catch that wink he gives his Lindy Lou as they circle each other to the call of a "dose doe".

We can hear the excitement of the crowd as the hands turn a luscious barbequed chicken for the last time. We see the local farmer sitting beside the neighboring business man.

This is the fellowship of a Democracy.

How can I hear the voice of Democracy if I know not where to tune? We have found the tuning dial at the threshold of this meeting place. The magicians' cape is made from the warp, the right of free discussion and the woof, the vote of the people for the benefit of all people.

Harry Emerson Fosdick speaks, "Democracy is based on the conviction that there are extraordinary people". My Town is living proof of the Voice of Democracy.



*Johnstown Town Board, top row, left to right - Ralph Lawrence, Robert Venable, "Jack" Arnold. Clerk - Betty ( Mrs. Ralph ) Lawrence. Assessor - Frederick Wehler. Treasurer - Florence ( Mrs. Hal ) Peterson.*



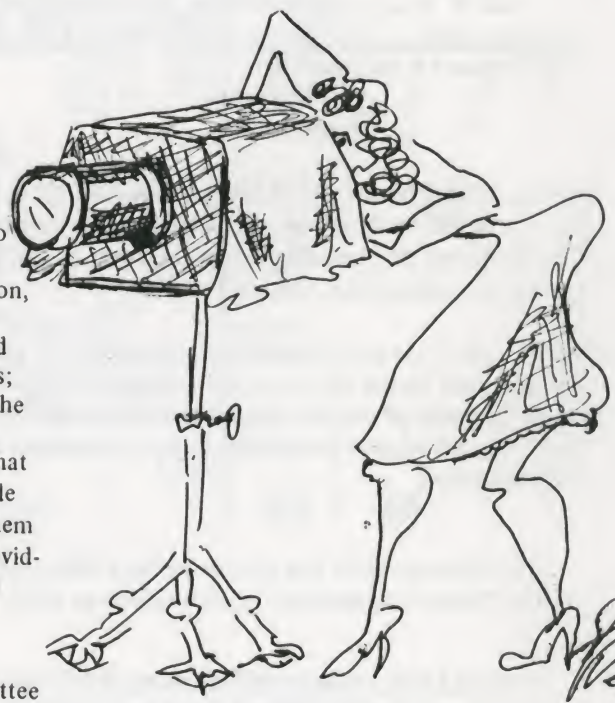
*Doll of Mrs. Eldora Paynter*

The Johnstown Album Committee would like to thank all those who participated in any way whatsoever in the production of this book: those who loaned photographs, books, and other data, those who gave needed information, those who donated cakes, cookies, pictures, time or money, those who helped with fund raising events, our advertisers; all those wonderful people who go by the title of "Neighbor."

As for our mistakes, and we know that with a book like this we must have made some; we hope that you will correct them where you can by writing to us and providing us with the correct information and additional information, too.

Thank You,

The Johnstown Album Committee  
Mrs. Fred Wehler  
Mrs. Clifford Zanton  
Miss Vivian Sturtevant



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